

Idling vehicles are the devil's playground

During the winter in Edmonton, it's practically a way of life, but idling our cars is a habit we need to break—not just in terms of lowering CO₂ emissions, but for the sake of our own health as well



MEGAN
CLEAVELEY

As someone who routinely rides the bus, I'm well aware of how cold Edmonton's winters can get. As someone who occasionally drives, I'm also aware of how nice it can be to travel in the warmth of my own car. And as someone who's concerned about the environment, I'm aware that idling my car is completely unnecessary.

Not only is it unnecessary, it's harmful to the environment and our health as well. Unfortunately, not everyone sees it this way, but that's why it's so exciting that two Edmonton City Councillors—Michael Phair and David Thiele—are proposing a bylaw that would reduce engine idling in the city. The proposed bylaw would put Edmonton in the company of cities such as Toronto, Vancouver and even blue-collar Hinton.

Toronto's bylaw limits idling to under three minutes outside of schools and other "idling hot spots." This is a good start, but not nearly enough. Hinton allows cars to idle up to 15 minutes—perhaps

understandable during the winter, but in warmer weather that length of time is still unacceptable. In Vancouver, the bylaw states that your car cannot be left idling for more than three minutes out of 60, or while your car is unattended and unlocked.

Obviously what works in Vancouver won't translate perfectly to Edmonton. Since it gets significantly colder here, if nothing else it would make sense to have an exception for cold weather. I would propose that idling be limited to five minutes if the temperature is -10C or lower, and be banned completely if the temperature were warmer.

I do sympathize with those who get into cold cars in the morning to start their days, but it's not difficult to let your car warm up while driving it. If the drive is long enough, it won't take long for your car to become nice and toasty on the inside. And if it doesn't, odds are you've got a pretty short commute and not much to complain about.

But contrary to popular belief, idling is actually unnecessary and in no way good for your car's engine. In fact, idling for more than ten seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine, and idling for two minutes uses the same amount of fuel as driving 1.6 kilometers (or one mile, if you prefer).

For those of you concerned about

warming up your engine before driving off, don't worry. Your car's engine needs no more than 30 seconds to warm up—and the best way to warm up the engine is to drive anyway.

In fact, it's been found that idling does your car more harm than good. Unwarranted idling damages engine parts and also causes build-up of fuel residues that, ironically enough, decrease engine efficiency.

Given these facts, being cold for a few minutes is a small price to pay for cleaner air and better health. According to Health Canada, over 5000 Canadians die each year as a result of air pollution, while thousands more fall ill, develop asthma and experience other, less detectable adverse effects. And while vehicle emissions are obviously not the only cause of air pollution, 55 per cent of Canadians identify them as a major contributor.

Hopefully the rest of Edmonton City Council has the foresight to pass the bylaw, but even if they don't, people should think twice about idling their vehicles while popping into shops for quick errands, getting food at a drive-through or warming up their cars.

When you come down to it, idling is a selfish and senseless habit: it's bad for your car, the environment and your health. So do us all a favour and switch off your engine—or better yet, walk, bike or take the bus.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

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Fairy-tale run ends in silver for Pandas

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

When it came time for the Pandas basketball squad to don the glass slipper, Laurelle Weigl smashed it to pieces. The 6'4" Simon Fraser post ended Alberta's Cinderella run and carried the Clan to the National title with 30 points in Sunday's 72-68 victory over Alberta at Memorial University.

Weigl shot 14-23, added a dozen rebounds and walked away with the tournament MVP as the Pandas couldn't contain her in the paint. No other Clanswoman had more than eight points.

"[Julia] Wilson and [Kate] Hole did nothing—it wasn't them at all. They played well, but they weren't the issue; it was Laurelle that we had the problem with," said Pandas head coach Scott Edwards, who was named CIS Coach of the Year. "We couldn't get her off of the block. She camps in the paint and we, unfortunately, weren't able to get a three-in-the-key call on her at any point in the game. If she's going to catch the ball that low, she's two feet from the rim and six inches taller than my biggest kid, and she's going to finish."

Neither team led by more than six in the back-and-forth affair at the Works Field House in St John's, but the Clan managed to stay ahead of or equal to Alberta for most of the game, using their superior size to negate the Pandas' fast-break offence and make it difficult for them to score in the halfcourt. When Alberta finally did take the lead with about five minutes left in the game, poor foul-shooting couldn't keep them in it.

"[The missed free throws result]



DUNCAN DEYOUNG, THE MUSE (CUP)

NOT THIS TIME Panda Michelle Anderson (23) defends against Katherine Quackenbush (8) in Saturday's semifinal. Alberta won 79-60 to advance to the final.

from just not being mentally focused on the moment and staying within that moment on the floor. They did everything they could to get to the line—and good for them—but they couldn't finish them off," explained Edwards, whose team shot 40 per cent from the charity stripe in the second half. "Free-throw shooting is the number one thing—they'll kick themselves for the next six months over that—but I don't feel like we ran with the passion that we have all [tournament]."

By knocking Alberta out of their

run-and-gun style of play, SFU was able to dictate the tempo and avoid the large Alberta run that led to the 81-58 victory the Pandas posted in the Canada West semifinal against the Clan.

"[SFU] did a great job of slowing our transition down and taking away our penetration when they hadn't the last time we played them. I thought they defended us much better today," Edwards said, adding that his team showed their inexperience in the waning minutes. "Down the stretch,

[nerves were a factor]. Ashley [Wigg] struggled ... making decisions and could've made some better ones, but those are learning situations that we'll take advantage of down the road."

Shouldering the load for Alberta was third-year forward Kristin Jarock, who scored 17 and grabbed eleven rebounds. She also drilled a three-pointer to make it a one-possession game in the final minute.

"[Kristin] had an incredible weekend. She was a fantastic ballplayer [Sunday] and was certainly one of

the factors of us staying in the game," Edwards said.

This is the Clan's third title since they began CIS play in 2000/01, while Alberta won its third national medal and first since 1999/2000 when they claimed silver.

In the bronze medal matchup, the hometown Memorial Sea-Hawks downed their conference rivals from Dalhousie 75-60. Both teams posted upsets over York and UBC respectively to make the semifinals, before falling to Alberta and SFU.



TARASTIELGITZ

EYES OF THE TIGER Stephen Mann (white) guards Richard Hamula along the boards. Mann's Huskies beat Alberta to take the Canada West title this weekend.

Huskies claw back to take CW title

ANDREW RENFRE
Sports Staff

For the first time in six years, the mood on the bus back to Saskatoon after the Canada West final was one of celebration for the Huskies men's hockey team.

In a tightly fought best-of-three series, Saskatchewan beat the Golden Bears 2-1 to capture their first Canada West championship since 1999/2000 after five years of finishing second to Alberta. The victory also earned the Huskies a berth in the National Finals and forced the Bears to pack their equipment for the season.

"This wasn't about us playing the Bears and that stigma [of losing to Alberta]. This was really about us and our focus; we came here with a purpose and that was to go to Moncton [for the CIS Championships]," Saskatchewan head coach Dave Adolph said. "I don't even know if we booked our flights to Nationals, but if we have to go to Moncton by Greyhound we will."

"It's an unbelievable feeling, taking it all in right now," fifth-year Husky Keegan McAvoy added. "Right from our young guys to our older guys, there was this feeling in the dressing room that no matter what we were going into, we felt we were a first rate hockey club."

Saskatchewan came out strong on Sunday evening, during the third and deciding game of the weekend,

scoring the first goal, but Alberta answered with three power-play goals to take a commanding 3-1 lead part-way through the second period. All weekend, Saskatchewan played with a never-say-die attitude and Sunday was no exception as they slowly chipped away at the Alberta lead to tie it at three early in the third period. With less than three minutes left in the game, Colin Patterson notched a fourth Huskies goal, and Alberta couldn't tie it up in the dying seconds as they scrambled in front of the Saskatchewan net with their goaltender pulled for an extra attacker.

"We gave them three power-play goals early, and instead of folding and panicking, we just stuck to our system: cycling the puck deep and crashing the net," McAvoy said. "We could have panicked, but we didn't; all the credit to the guys in the room."

"When they got up 3-1 I think our resolve just got that much better; it became that much deeper to bounce back in the third period," Adolph added.

While Sunday may have been the climax, tension was the highest during Saturday's game which took three overtime periods to resolve. Alberta opened the scoring in the second period, but Saskatchewan forward Curtis Austring tied it up 41 seconds later. Alberta got their second goal late in that period, but it was Austring who again tied it up with four minutes left

in the third. The first two overtime periods resolved nothing but Austring notched a hat trick goal in the third OT to give the Huskies the win.

Each team had offensive heroes but the weekend really came down to a goaltender battle. Bears netminder Aaron Sorochan and his counterpart Jeff Harvey were key performers in all three games, with Sorochan posting a .932 save percentage on the weekend and Harvey finishing at .929.

"We said all along that the two best goalies in the country were playing this weekend; it could have gone either way," Adolph said.

Alberta's solid effort in all three games didn't dilute the disappointment in the locker room after the game, but there was a sense that after five years of playing second fiddle to Alberta, Saskatchewan was due for a Canada West championship.

"That was some of the best hockey I've seen in the whole time I've been here," graduating Bear Scott Henkelman said. "This was two great teams, and they are our number one rival. If some other team's got to win, I'm happy it's Saskatchewan because they're a really great team."

"[This series saw] two incredibly evenly matched teams, who laid it out on the line," Bears head coach Eric Thurston added. "I told our guys I was very proud of them; they came for three games and they just let it hang out on the line."



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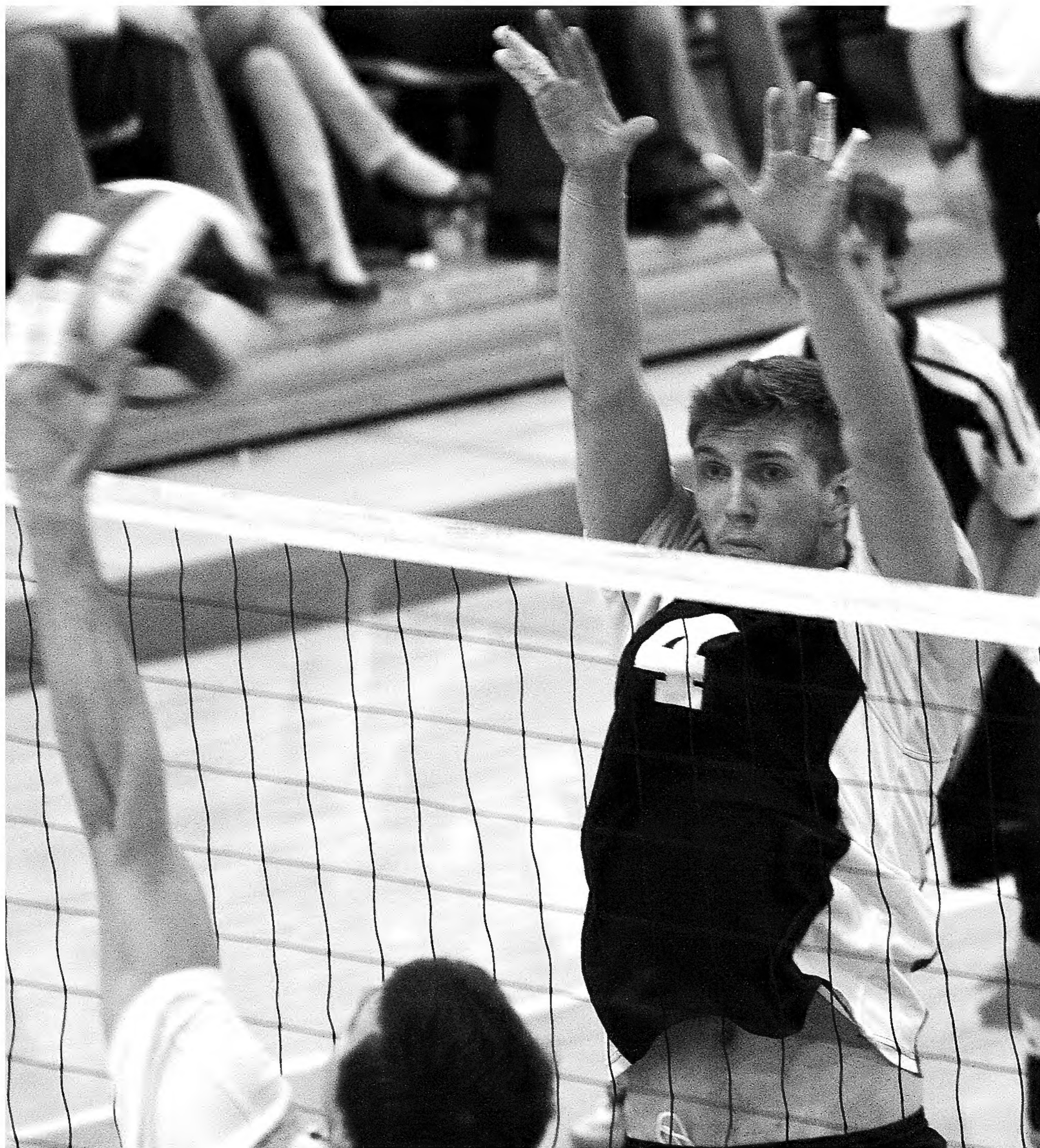
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FILE PHOTO: KIM SMITH

EXCHANGING BLUE FOR RED Trinity Western's Josh Howatson (4) hopes to make the Canadian National Team.

National centre vying with universities for volleyballers

DAN PLOUFFE
CUP Sports Bureau Chief

HAMILTON, ON (CUP)—Since the CIS men's volleyball season wrapped up with the National Championships in Hamilton last weekend, many of the graduating seniors are wondering what's next now that their university careers are over.

Many CIS volleyball players have aspirations of taking the next step and playing for the Canadian senior national team—a goal that may be within their reach seeing as 18 out of 22 athletes on Team Canada's extended training roster went through the Canadian university system.

Since 1996, CIS has pretty much been the only option for Canadian prospects, but since the Team Canada full-time training centre in Winnipeg was recently re-established after a decade-long absence, players now have a question to ask themselves about which route to take if they want to reach the next level. It was for this training centre that Golden Bear standouts Alexandre Gaumont Casias and Dallas Soonias left the Alberta program at the end of 2005/06, even though they hadn't exhausted their CIS eligibility.

National team head coach Glenn Hoag thinks that for Canada to excel on the international stage, its best young players should spend at least a year or two at the centre.

"[CIS] is a pretty good training ground, but it's not perfect obviously because they're student athletes—their emphasis is not volleyball; their emphasis is academic," he said. "We just cannot take a CIS athlete, put him on the international stage and expect

him to perform."

When the majority of national team members are playing with their clubs professionally, the centre becomes tailored to young players, where they can be put on individual training regimens and be closely watched over as they work to improve on their weaknesses.

One of those hopefuls is 20-year-old Louis-Pierre Mainville, who got the chance to play at the 2006 World Championships after the team was hit by a few injuries. Last year, Mainville had been accepted to study at the Université de Sherbrooke—where Hoag coached from 2003 until the end of this season—but chose Winnipeg instead.

"It was a difficult decision," Mainville said. "In the end, university wouldn't have allowed me to improve as much as at the full-time centre in Winnipeg. I had talked to Glenn a lot about what the centre was all about and I decided to move out there and give myself a better chance to live my dream of playing for the national team."

Hoag noted that in Winnipeg Mainville can focus all his energy on volleyball—to eat, rest and train properly.

"I think some people said, 'You can study later, but you can't play volleyball that long,'" Hoag said of Mainville's decision. "So he made his choice and he's very happy with it. He's really improving really fast and he's going to be a great asset."

On the other side of the coin are players like Josh Howatson, this year's CIS MVP, who used all five years of his university eligibility at Trinity Western. Howatson, a 6'7" setter, also dreams of becoming a national team member and got a taste of what that's

like when he played for Canada-2 at an exhibition international tournament last September in Ottawa.

"As far as competition level, playing pro would probably be better for your overall development as a player, but I think as a whole person, you definitely want to go CIS," explained Howatson, who's hoping for an invite to the training centre. "One thing I like about CIS is that you get a degree as well."

Larry McKay, head coach of the 2007 National Champions, the Winnipeg Wesmen, and an assistant with Team Canada, also likes the idea of players competing in the CIS and then moving on to the centre once they're done at university.

"[The CIS] is the highest level of volleyball in the country beneath the national team," he noted. "It's the place where kids, for anywhere from one to five years, can get the highest-level training possible prior to the national team level."

However, he agrees with Hoag that most players can't make the jump from CIS right onto the national team and says they need to encourage grads to go to the full-time centre to bridge the gap.

Hoag does recognize that the CIS will remain the main feeder system for the national team at least for the foreseeable future, and that it's going to be up to each individual player to help Canada move up from its current ranking of 12th in the world.

"They need to be super structured in their school and sports," Hoag said. "Sometimes they need to sacrifice things like their social lives to focus totally, but even then they still have school, so it's not easy. They just won't develop as fast."

Lone fifth-year grads from puck Bears empty-handed

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

After the disappointing loss to Saskatchewan in the Canada West final, most of the Bears hockey team took solace in the fact that there's always next season. But winger Scott Henkelman, the only Bear graduating this year, had to deal with the reality of hanging up his Golden Bears uniform for good.

"I'm really sad," says Henkelman, a tough, checking forward who has been a key part of the Alberta penalty kill in his time with the team. "Saskatchewan played very well tonight and there's nothing we can do about it now. All we can do is go on to the rest of our lives, I guess."

Bears head coach Eric Thurston wishes Henkelman could stay on for another season and had nothing but praise for the graduating forward.

"Scotty is a class kid," Thurston says. "I have the utmost respect for him; we say Scotty Henkelman is the definition of Golden Bear because he comes everyday with a smile on his face; he's personable; he works hard; he makes our other players better; he makes our team better;"

After five years with the Alberta hockey club, Henkelman had his hopes of a third CIS title squashed by Saskatchewan on Sunday night. For a player who has experienced the success Henkelman has, it was a difficult way to finish his career, and left the Education student reflecting on what he'll miss about playing for Alberta.

"By far the thing I'll miss most is every single person on this team," he says. "A lot of my good friends have come from here, and I'm sure we'll stay in touch forever. In CIS hockey you're here for school, so it brings you all together and you've got that



TARASTIEGLITZ

HE'S A CRIER Scott Henkelman played his last game as a Golden Bear in Sunday's 4-3 loss to Saskatchewan, and admits he tends to get teary-eyed.

camaraderie in the room. It brings a team close together and you end up becoming better friends; I'm really going to miss it."

The abrupt end to his tenure as a Bear certainly left Henkelman dejected, but looking back over the last five years, it's only fair to say that he can be proud of his accomplishments in an Alberta uniform. With the exception of this year, Alberta won the Canada West championship each season, as well as two National titles, while Henkelman—who scored a pair of goals in last year's semifinal win over McGill—was with the team, moments which stand out for him as favourites.

"By far the last two seasons winning the National Championships was indescribable. I cried every

year, and the best time I cried was when we won," he says. "Beyond the championships, the fans here and the guys on the team have meant a lot to me."

Henkelman, who was one of Alberta's assistant captains this year, brought leadership to young team in need of it with eleven rookies in the lineup this year. Thurston notes that he really led by example on and off the ice.

"He works hard in practice, and that's able to show guys what it takes to win," Thurston says. "He's got two championship rings that he can be very proud of, and he can be proud of taking a young group of guys and showing them what it takes everyday to be a Golden Bear and to be a champion."

Canada West hockey needs new top dogs

PAUL
OWEN



Sports
Commentary

It must suck to be a Calgary Dinos hockey fan. After all, it's been twelve years since they've taken the conference crown. For the Lethbridge Pronghorns, it's been 14 seasons since they hoisted a Canada West banner to the rafters. That's because, when it comes to university hockey west of the Lake of the Woods, the discussion begins and ends with Alberta and Saskatchewan. The two schools have combined for the past eleven men's titles, and except for the 2000/01 Regina Cougars, no women's team besides the Pandas has ever been named Canada West champ. With the same teams facing each other year-after-year in the playoffs, the conference has become stagnant.

Sure, it was a surprise that the Saskatchewan Huskies beat the Golden Bears Sunday night to capture their first banner since 1999/2000, but it was bound to happen eventually—the two teams have squared off with the conference on the line for each of the past six seasons. The complete lack of parity is hurting the development of CIS hockey. The assumption is that Alberta and Saskatchewan will be the post-season finalists on a yearly basis, it's more difficult for the fans in Lethbridge, Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Regina to feel attached to their squads.

Lethbridge and UBC both made strides towards making the conference a four-way race—and the Dinos were highly competitive before star forward Jarret Lukin tested positive for cocaine and was removed from the team—but when the playoffs came around, neither could make much noise, and Alberta made quick

work of UBC after the Thunderbirds beat the Pronghorns in the first round. The strides they have made this season weren't enough to upset the balance of power, and even if both teams improve by the same amount next season, it may not be enough to crack the top.

Alberta and Saskatchewan play in front of terrific crowds all season long because fans have become addicted to the success the teams have had—and because Saskatoon is so sports deprived that they have no choice but to obsess over their university teams. UBC's perpetual putridity has earned them small, unenthusiastic crowds at their games, and one half-decent season hasn't been enough to change that.

On the women's side, things are much worse. Alberta has dominated the sport since the team was formed ten years ago. Counting their 2006/07 title, which they won last week, Alberta now has nine Canada West banners. They've lost seven conference games in their history and regularly score more goals than their opponents have shots on net. The sheer talent gap is almost insulting.

Gone are the days of 2003/04 when the two Alberta squads combined to go undefeated in conference play, and it's good that the other teams in the conference have become good enough to beat either squad if they take a night off. But to be able to pencil in both the Bears and Pandas—as well as the Saskatchewan men—for 20 wins and first place in the conference makes a mockery of Canada West hockey. Saskatchewan's conference title shakes things up a little bit, but it still doesn't change the fact that Huskies and Bears blew away the rest of the competition in Canada West for the sixth straight year. Until the other teams can close the gap, Lethbridge fans will prefer the Hurricanes, Regina fans the Pats and Winnipeg fans the Jets—even though they don't exist anymore.

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Smyth's departure doesn't compare to these guys'



GATEWAY
SPORTS STAFF

Group
Commentary

After two weeks of Ryan Smyth withdrawal, we here at the Gateway felt that it was important to remind Edmonton that it isn't the only city to ever lose a beloved athlete. In fact, many far more successful and famous stars have been shipped off for various reasons—most of them monetary in nature—much to the chagrin of fans. With this in mind, here are our picks for the most devastating loss of a franchise player.

Nick Frost

Though the trade itself didn't come as a shock to many, given his well-publicized feud with former head coach Mario Tremblay, it was still a shock for fans of the Montréal Canadiens to have to watch their star goaltender, Patrick Roy, take to the ice as a member of the Colorado Avalanche.

On 2 December, 1995, Tremblay elected to embarrass Roy by subjecting him to the jeers of the furious Montréal faithful and leaving him in to allow nine goals on 26 shots in a game against the Detroit Red Wings. After he was finally pulled, Roy made his way over to former Habs president, Ronald Corey, and stated that, as long as Tremblay was coach, he would never play for Montréal again—although, I'm sure the word

tabernac was used in this conversation as well.

Four days after the incident—in what has since been dubbed “Le Trade” by Canadiens fans and Montréal media alike—Roy was traded, along with then-captain Mike Keane, to the Colorado Avalanche, in exchange for forwards Andrei Kovalenko and Martin Rucinsky, and goaltender Jocelyn Thibault.

Of course, to make matters even more embarrassing for the Habs, Roy went on to win the Stanley Cup later that season with the Avalanche, while Montréal bowed out after six games in their Eastern Conference quarter-final against the New York Rangers. I'd be willing to bet a poutine and a Molson Dry that Ronald Corey wishes he had gotten rid of Tremblay rather than Roy.

Trevor Phillips

When the Boston Red Sox sold the greatest baseball player in the history of the world to the New York Yankees, it was reportedly so their owner could finance a Broadway musical. What it brought was the most infamous curse in all of professional sports—The Curse of the Bambino.

Before the 1920 deal that sent Babe Ruth to the Yankees, the Sultan of Swat was one of the most versatile men in the big leagues. Most people know The Babe as a hitter, and a great hitter he was—his career batting average, on base and slugging percentage are all among the highest all time at .342/.474/.690, and he sits third all-time with 714 home runs. For his five years with the Sox, however, Ruth was

a pitcher too, and a damn good one. Ruth won 20 games in a season twice and pitched the longest complete game in World Series history—14 innings in 1916—while helping Beantown to three championships in four years. In 1919, his last year in red socks, Ruth became the power hitter he would be remembered for and belted a team-record 29 homers.

Ultimately, Ruth would go on to make the Yankees the most powerful franchise in sports history. The Yankees have won 26 World Series since the deal, four with Ruth in the lineup while the Red Sox started an 86-year drought that brought misery to the city for the better part of a century.

Paul Owen

When the Winnipeg Jets dealt Teemu Selanne, Marc Choimard and a fourth-round pick to Anaheim for Chad Kilger, Oleg Tverdoksky and a third-rounder, not only did it rip the heart out of a city with piteously little to cheer for, it provided the death knell for the franchise.

Mired in severe financial trouble and attempting to offload salary for their new owners, the Jets decided to open up some money by sending their best and most exciting player—a guy who scored 76 goals only three seasons earlier—to the NHL's version of purgatory. Nevermind that Kilger and Tverdoksky combined were worth less than the Russian-English dictionary coach Terry Simpson used to berate Igor Ulanov and Sergei Bautin, dealing Selanne not only weakened the team, but lowered the value of the Jets' other two top scorers: Keith Tkachuk and

Alexei Zhamnov.

Less than month earlier, the NHL had approved the sale of the Jets to a pair of Phoenix businessmen, but no one in the city truly believed they'd move the White, Red and Blue south until the Selanne deal went down. Not only was the town hero ripped from their grasp, but two months later, the team was as well.

Chris O'Leary

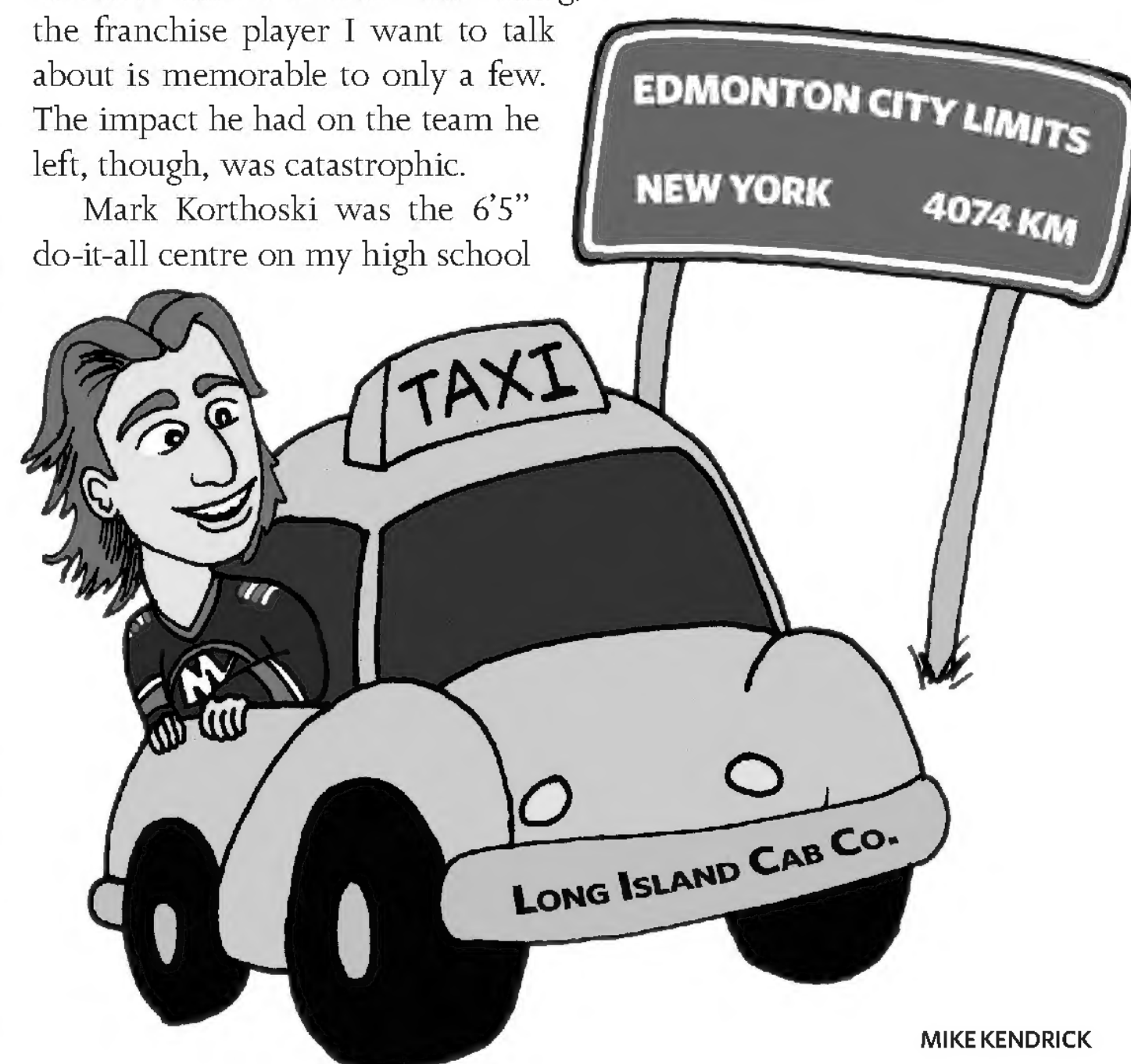
The list reads like a Mitch Albom book: painful to deal with and trying with everything it's got to make you cry. While we've all got a story on a professional athlete who was traded for a sack of potatoes, a punch to the nuts and the contract of Alonzo Mourning, the franchise player I want to talk about is memorable to only a few. The impact he had on the team he left, though, was catastrophic.

Mark Korthoski was the 6'5" do-it-all centre on my high school

basketball team. When he was in eleventh grade, he carried our team to the best record the school had seen in a decade. Though we didn't get anywhere in the playoffs, the talk of next year was serious and frequent. The problem was, though, that come September, Korthoski was nowhere to be found.

Our MVP decided that he needed to do what was best for him, which meant ditching the eleven scrubs he played alongside and transferring to a rival school. The real salt in the wound came when we had to play his team that year and he led them in soundly thumping us by 40 points.

The least he could have done was transfer to a different city.



MIKE KENDRICK



Melanie Mehes is pursuing a PhD in Biomolecular Sciences.

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Frankenstein worthy of love, praise

Frankenstein

Directed by Jonathan Christenson
Starring Nick Green, Andrew Kushnir,
Sarah Machin-Gale, Tracy Penner, Tim
Machin and George Szilagyi
Runs 8-25 March
Catalyst Theatre

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Is there such thing as a beautiful nightmare?

When ghostly figures wrapped in crinkled white paper dance in the haze of multi-coloured lights, one could say that an oxymoron of the type exists. Although most nightmares leave us sweating icicles and clawing at the pits in our stomachs, there are always a few that leave us too enthralled, too intrigued to let the horror take over.

This is a bit what Catalyst Theatre's production of *Frankenstein* is like.

Both hideous and magnificent, *Frankenstein* can only be described as a cross between *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Pan's Labyrinth*. Nurturing a twisted, yet sharp, sense of humour among its vivid images and palpable realism, *Frankenstein* relates the timeless tale of a laboratory-constructed being journeying to find love.

While many will expect the Creature (played by George Szilagyi) to make an appearance at the play's outset, he doesn't. The beginning concentrates on the lives and inner workings of the characters that, in some way, play a vital role in the life of Victor Frankenstein (Andrew Kushnir), the Creature's creator. Just like the Creature's journey to find acceptance in a world that's blind to everything and anything except what we deem beautiful, Dr Frankenstein searches for a path towards individuality, towards earning respect.

The mood *Frankenstein* sets is

uncanny, using the eerie simplicity of the characters' demeanor to contrast with eccentric movements and music. Most of the play is narrated by a chorus, creating a sense of Greek antiquity and timelessness that complements the immediacy of the humour.

Both hideous and magnificent, *Frankenstein* can only be described as a cross between *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Pan's Labyrinth*.

At times when the atmosphere turns serious, the chorus unexpectedly breaks out into song about Dr Frankenstein's

friend Henry (played by Nick Green). Henry slumps and shuffles his body across the stage in time with the tune, performing in such a comedic manner that it's nearly impossible to refrain from suddenly spurring a loud laugh into the ear of the person sitting in front of you.

As for the script, it's easy to say that playwright Jonathan Christenson projected a clear-cut vision of what *Frankenstein* should be in his mind before writing. Adaptations, as we all know, tend to stray down unnatural artistic paths and dwell on certain themes, but for this production of *Frankenstein*, the entire performance blends nicely from start to finish, giving rise to only a few lulls.

And in relation to the acting, there's really nothing much to say—each and every character's performance is as flawless. Green is the king of outrageous gestures, Tracy Penner (Lucy)

is an adorable teenage sweetheart and Szilagyi must eat a bag full of cough drops each night to soothe the sore throat that must accompany the prolonged deep, scratchy voice of the Creature.

But most importantly, *Frankenstein* wouldn't generate the sense of alluring terror it does without the lighting effects and costuming. Everyone dons an outfit made solely from paper and glue, and once the stream of colours reflects off of this unusual getup, the result is nothing less than stunning.

Frankenstein is one of those few performances you'll see each year that'll remain as memorable as your most vivid nightmare—minus the irritated nerves and palpitating heart. Although the play may be a mere reflection of a classic tale, *Frankenstein* is also a reminder to us all that the higher we climb in our aspirations, the harder it is to survive the fall.

300 nothing but eye candy

The Spartans might have nice bodies, but their mouths only articulate grunts

300

Directed by Zack Snyder
Starring Gerard Butler, Leda Headey and Dominic West
Empire Theatres
Opens Friday, 9 March

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In *300*, the new film based on the graphic novel by Frank Miller and Lynn Varley, Gerard Butler stars as Leonidas, King of Sparta, whose country is threatened by the enormous Persian army. He consults a group of sacred prophets who foretell that Sparta will fall and that Leonidas is forbidden from openly making war with Persia. But Leonidas finds a loophole: he doesn't mobilize the entire army, and instead he and 300 of his muscular friends decide to "go for a walk" that conveniently coincides with the Persians' warpath. While Leonidas and his friends are "pleasantly strolling," back in Sparta his wife struggles to convince the council to send reinforcements, but has to contend with an oily traitor (Dominic West, looking like a demonic Mark Wahlberg).

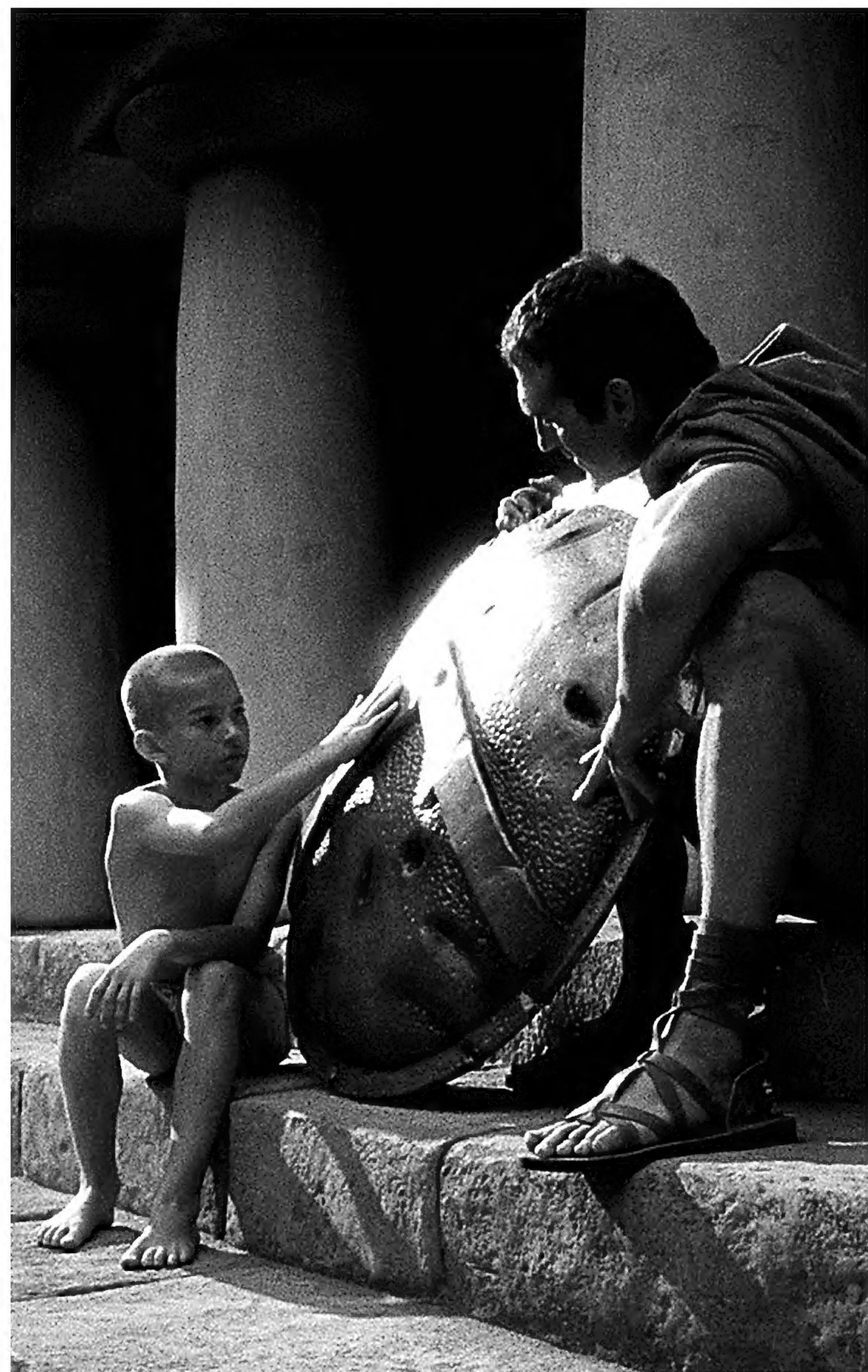
Of course, the wife subplot is a little thin, but that's because the entire plot could be written on a fortune cookie.

Let's face it, *300* is just *Marie Antoinette* for dudes—that is, a movie based on a fictional retelling of a historic event that places intense focus on the visuals while entirely neglecting narrative. To be fair, the visuals are astonishing—vast armies, walls and trees built out of human corpses, waves of gore, tits galore (both male and female)—but gratuitous. Several scenes or actions seem shoehorned in on the basis of how cool they'd look on film. The visual elements are also impeded, not helped, by flagrant overuse of slow-motion and quick-jump editing, which lends the film the look of a beautiful but meaningless music video.

For all its pomp and luxury, the visuals can't hide the fact that the movie is abominably written. The majority of the dialogue is comprised of Leonides making a Captain Obvious victory statement ("We are Sparta!" "Never retreat, never surrender!" "Stab them with the pointy thing," etc, etc), his men whooping like ebullient frat boys, and the equally unnecessary and chest-thumping narration of injured soldier Dilios (David Menham, Boromir's younger and dumber brother in *Lord of the Rings*) that the film relies on as a crutch. The plot itself is a linear daisy-chain of the Spartans facing off against distinct sections of the Persian

army, one by one. Here come the soldiers, here come the uglier soldiers with masks, here come the olyphants (on loan from *LOTR*), here come the sorcerers with their sparkle-grenades. These foes serve less as specific obstacles and more as numbers in a cue, simply serving to add to the Spartan's body count and to stretch the movie's running time.

That's not to say that the film isn't enjoyable in its style-over-substance way. While it's little more than two hours of half-naked men hacking at each other, every spurt of blood is artistically realized (often in slow-motion), every Persian foot soldier is stunningly depicted, and every meaninglessly macho tag line is delivered with admirable enthusiasm by an amiable cast. There's lots of action and fighting and writhing topless females for the guys, 300 examples of CGI-enhanced man-candy for the girls, a suitably campy villain (*Lost*'s Rodrigo Santoro as Xerxes, a deep-voiced god-king naked but for piercings and bling-bling, whose main job is to jingle his chains and look outraged), and an unintentionally comical hunchbacked character for the viewers with more particular tastes. Ultimately, though, *300* is cinematic cotton candy—colourful and tasty, but unsatisfying and easily forgettable.



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Hey, parents, don't censor my vagina

ELIZABETH
VAIL

"Florida's *The Vagina Monologues* was pressured because parents were flustered when children read it off a public billboard and wanted an explanation. If a child is advanced enough to read and intelligent enough to ask, then they should know. Art shouldn't be censored because parents aren't prepared."

Boys have scrotums, girls have vaginas. It's a basic fact of life. However, the particulars of revealing this to children have been aggressively debated for years, and two special cases recently made it into the public eye thanks to the incredible ignorance on the part of some protesters.

With children's book *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron, an uproar was caused by the use of the word "scrotum" on the first page of the book. Armies of school librarians across America uttered a collective, "Think of the children!" and banned the book from their libraries. Of course, they apparently forgot that the book won the Newbery Medal, the most prestigious award in children's literature, an award that is actually given out by the *Association for Library Service to Children*.

To put it in context, the book's main character overhears "scrotum" when someone tells a friend where his dog was bitten by a rattlesnake. So the word wasn't used in an objectionable or sexual manner. Scrotum, in this case, was an anatomical word used to describe a specific body part—and it

wasn't even a human body part, for Pete's sake! It wasn't like the book described how the dog was bitten on his "mandangle," or his "sperm factory." One particularly deluded woman considered the whole affair "a Howard Stern-type shock treatment." Really? Because of the long list of colourful words that refer to the male genitalia, I don't imagine Howard Stern would rely on the most professional and respectful of the lot.

But that's not the worst of the recent paranoia regarding genitalia. In Florida, a theatre performing *The Vagina Monologues* was pressured into changing the title on the marquee, because the protesters were evidently unprepared to explain to their children what a "vagina" was when the little tykes read it in passing. The solution? For about two days, the marquee read "The Hooahaa Monologues." Not only does this contradict the entire idea behind *The Vagina Monologues*—that is, that society should be more open about talking about vaginas—but it doesn't even solve the problem.

Children are still going to ask what a "hooahaa" is, and I imagine the parental talk that ensues will be even more

embarrassing, because "hooahaa" is to "vagina" what "hooters" is to "breasts." Hooahaa is a childish, funny-sounding, misogynistic euphemism for a female body part that basically tells girls that their genitalia is too weird or dirty or gross to talk about properly in public.

What it all seems to come down to is a lack of preparation on the part of authority figures. Most parents, school teachers and librarians object because they believe that there's a certain time when children are "ready" to know about sex (or at least anatomy), but truth be told, it's actually the parents, teachers and librarians who aren't ready. Patron's book, which was written for ten- to twelve-year-olds, was hounded because eight- and nine-year-olds were reading it and asking questions. Florida's *The Vagina Monologues* was pressured because parents were flustered when their children read it off a public billboard and wanted an explanation. If a child is advanced enough to read and intelligent enough to ask, then they should know. Art shouldn't be censored because parents aren't prepared.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

FASHION FOR SUFFERING The Ribbon Rouge Fashion Show raised money on Friday for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Northern Light Theatre plays cops and robbers

Hard Sell investigates everything from severe depression to sexual discrimination, all while taking a comedic twist on role-playing

Hard Sell

Directed by Trevor Schmidt
Starring Dave Clarke and Mark Stubbings
Runs until 18 March
The Third Space

BRYAN SAUNDER
Arts & Entertainment Staff

As the lights rise on the brilliantly thought-out set of *Hard Sell*, the eyes of the audience are treated to a now clichéd scene: an interrogation room, dimly lit, with two police officers standing over a seated suspect.

Hard Sell, however, is anything but clichéd.

A dark comedy exploring the nature of power and those who abuse it, *Hard Sell* is a fresh, witty and inventive creation. The suspect, a trophy wife named Kate Devoe, is being questioned about the shooting death of her husband Jamie. All throughout the questioning, however, she utters not a word. After all, Kate is played by a mannequin.

This silence frustrates Sergeant Filth (Dave Clarke) and Constable Pig (Mark Stubbings); especially Filth, an obviously sexually frustrated officer on the verge of retirement. Driven mad by Kate's beauty and determined to solve his last case before he turns in his badge, Filth uses interrogation methods of questionable legality in an attempt to get Kate to say something. Anything.

By contrast, Constable Pig is young, repressed and interrogates by the book. He believes that Kate has been silent for hours not because she's



guilty but because she's in a state of trauma. He tells Kate that he understands and that when she's ready to talk, he's ready to listen.

While the idea of a good cop and a bad cop being forced to work together is nothing new, the direction that the play takes next is completely unexpected. In an attempt to get Kate to talk and shed some light on the case, the two officers start role-playing. Sergeant Filth plays the part of Kate's husband, Jamie, and Constable Pig plays the part of one of his associates.

Gradually, the two officers take on the characters of *everyone* even remotely connected to case and act out the sequence of events leading up to the death of Jamie. The result is hilarious and both the actors rise to the challenge superbly, lending a realistic emotional depth to the personas of all the characters they play. The occasional overacting is always hysterical and almost always appropriate. While there's one emotional scene where Stubbings seems in a rush to return to being funny, both Stubbings and Clarke

expertly toy with the audience's heartstrings.

When the audience isn't being touched by a poignant line, they're either gasping in horror or gasping for breath. The humour is shocking, dark and vulgar. Even so, the oldest ladies in the audience titter at the filthiest of jokes. This is because despite being horrifying, the humour also carries an inherent honesty.

Hard Sell doesn't rely on elaborate costumes, fancy sets, or complicated lighting setups to carry the play. The costumes are basic but revealing of

the characters, the set is simple but creative and the lighting is minimal but effective.

Finally, despite the fact that *Hard Sell* is a non-stop side-splitting comedy, it doesn't lack meaning. While putting a new spin on tired stereotypes *Hard Sell* tackles every issue in the book, from severe depression to spousal abuse to racial and sexual discrimination and stereotypes. Moreover, it tackles all these while maintaining its artistic integrity and originality. And it tackles all these while at the same time being funny.

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Bird Brain pecks away at the validity of everyday rules

Bird Brain

Written By Vern Thiessen
Directed by Kim Selody
Starring Chris Bullough, Kevin Corey
and Caroline Livingstone
Runs 5-18 March
Citadel Theatre

BEN MACIOROWSKI
AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Writers

We've all been little rule breakers at some point in our lives or another. Whether it means wandering off of the playground when in elementary school or drinking at a high school dance, testing the regulations instituted by our superiors can become a fun and amusing pastime, especially if you avoid getting caught.

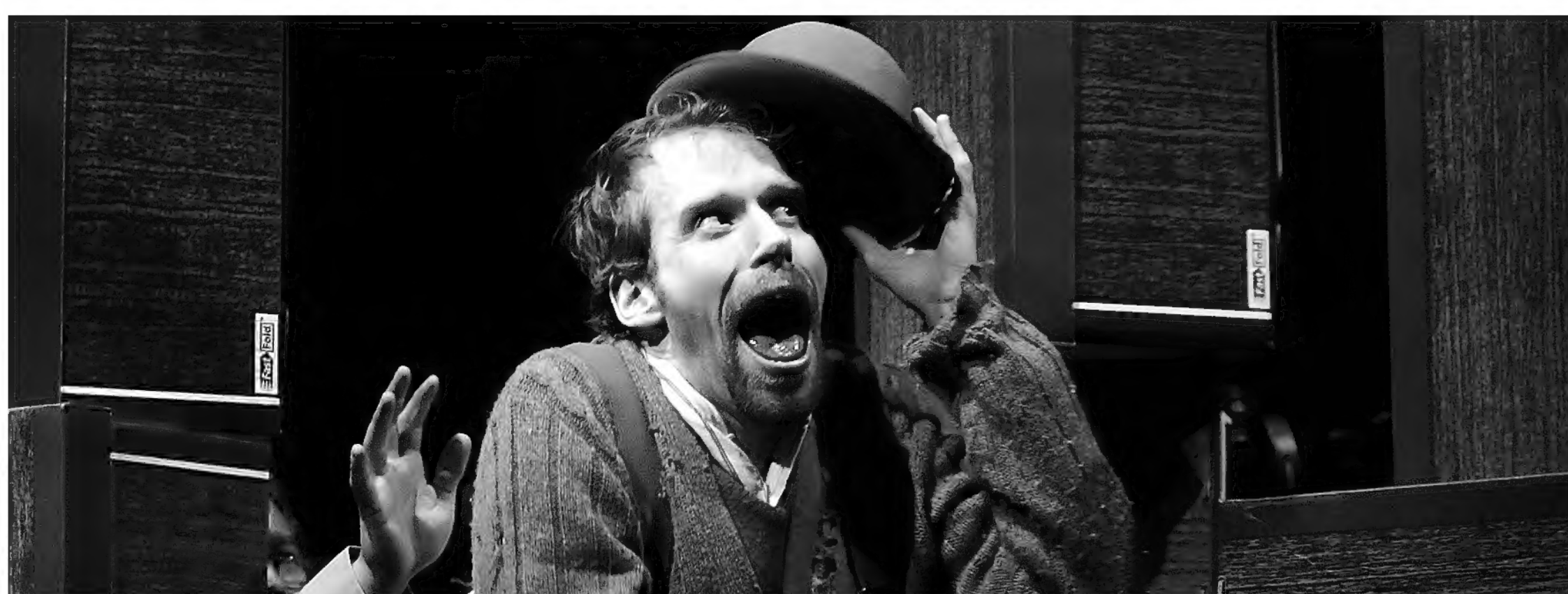
But what happens if you break the rules for a good cause?

In the Citadel Theatre's production of *Bird Brain*, the story surrounds The Woodsman and his struggles with the law. Directed by Kim Selody and adapted by Governor General Award-

winning playwright Vern Thiessen, *Bird Brain* depicts how The Woodsman finds a couple of freezing birds in the forest and agrees to store them under his hat for warmth. In exchange for his hospitality, the birds tell him that they'll clear his mind with their whistling. Bird Brain, as The Woodsman comes to be known, agrees to this pact and returns to his town in order to continue with his daily duties.

However, there's a catch to Bird Brain's situation. In his town, there's a strict etiquette regarding the removal of hats, and when Bird Brain refuses to follow the norm—he doesn't want the birds to fly away—he's labelled as being daffy and loopy, all the while being cast out of town, penniless.

Although *Bird Brain* tells an insightful story to children about the conflicts that can arise between choosing right over wrong, the play isn't without its faults. At one point in the production, there's a festival of fools where three irrelevant stock characters are paraded on stage, one by one, invariably played by Kevin Corey. One such character,



Wordsmith, a multi-dictionary toting scatter-brain, attempts to ground a message into the production by suggesting that to "believe" is somehow linked to individualism and identity. Also, up until the festival of fools where finally some creative lighting tricks were employed, the play lacked innovation, and in a few instances, left the action under-lit. For a children's play set in a mythical land, it's disappointing to see that lighting isn't

better used as an effect.

But the stage is skillfully transformed from a dismal office—comprised of stacked boxes—repetitively rearranged to become the various structures in Bird Brain's world. The three actors also cleverly provide the zany, kid-friendly sound effects for each other with various drums, slide-whistles, clackers and even crumpled paper. However, due to the constant switching and swapping of these

diverse small sound-making devices, inevitable errors (falling bells, dropped sticks, off cues) broke the adept atmosphere of the production.

But where *Bird Brain* lacks in its technical seamlessness and frantic moral grounding, it more than makes up for in imagination and resourcefulness, transforming the stage into a kooky, sound-filled world where the rigidity of rules is shattered when one man refuses to take off his hat.



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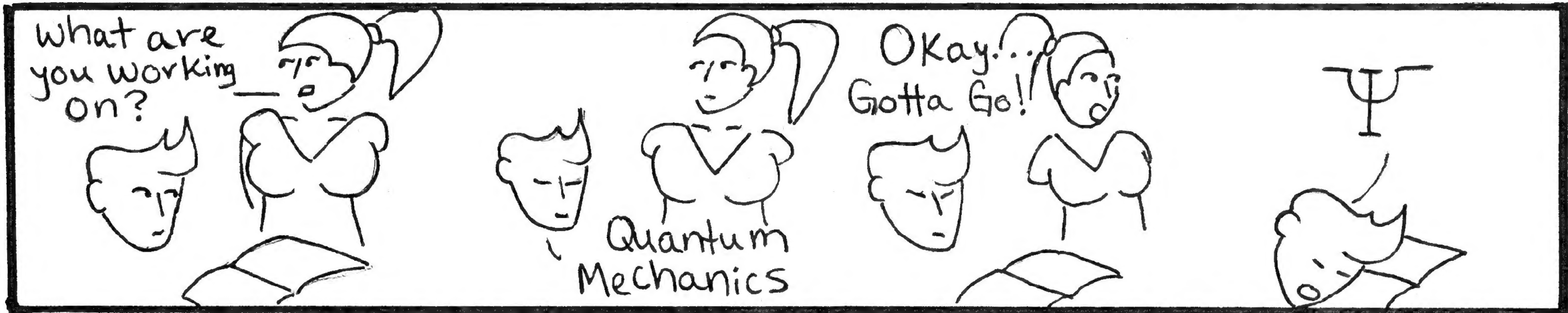


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RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



SEXY GEEK by Vishaal Rajani and Ross Lockwood



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SYNAPSE by Liv S Vors



The diagnosis was Bessie's worst nightmare come true: hay fever.

STEVE NASH LIVING & LOVING by Braden Deane (CUP)



THE GATEWAY

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GRE gets major overhaul

JEN HUYGEN
News Writer

Those with graduate school ambitions might find themselves surprised come fall, when the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) undergoes radical changes. A standardized test required for admission to many grad schools in English-speaking countries, the new version of the GRE will be longer and may be more difficult.

Changes to be made include lengthening the exam from two-and-a-half hours to four, restricting the number of test-taking days to 35 per year, and altering the computer program with which it's administered.

PLEASE SEE GRE ♦ PAGE 4



MIKE OTTO

SCORING EARLY AND OFTEN Keegan McAvoy (centre) gives the Huskies an early lead in Sunday's Canada West final. Saskatchewan won 4-3. Please see page 11.

Janz draws up plans as SU president-elect

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

With every hour that passed last Thursday night, Students' Union president-elect Michael Janz became a little less confident about his chances of winning. Janz had retreated to the second floor of the Powerplant to seek support from friends after election officials told a packed crowd that a recount had delayed the results.

"By the time that had happened, I was convinced that they had done the recount and I had lost," Janz says. In fact, he captured 59 per cent of the final vote in the last round, beating out opponent Amanda Henry for the top spot in next year's SU Executive.

"When the results came in, I was blown away. I'm sure that the 'Plant had a very good profit margin that night. I know with the candidates, the extra hours added to the libations consumed," he adds.

Janz and the crop of new SU Execs might not officially begin their terms until 1 May, but Janz says that the group has already met to spitball ideas for the next year. He says that next year's Executive has a lot of experience to bring to the table.

"Steven [Dollansky] and [Eamonn] Gamble and I all have been councillors, Bobby Samuel was very involved with [University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society]. Chris Le was ... a councillor up until September. We all have experience with the SU system and we all have a respect for the process," Janz says.

Among the top issues that will face



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

MISTER LISTER Janz is ready to get his hands dirty and get to working.

the new batch next year will undoubtedly be how to turn the Powerplant around financially. While the campus institution has seen a number of different plans and changes over the years in efforts to bring the bar back into the black, Janz hopes that a radical redesign to convert it fully into student space will draw more students in.

"I believe it's possible to make it into the campus living room that I was talking about," he says. "I just want to make sure ... that these ideas are feasible, and get the support of Council."

While he admits that he received a lot of support from Lister Hall residents after serving as the President of the residence's student association, he stressed that his campaign had captured the support of the U of A campus as a whole.

"There were a couple comments, like when I won, the Gateway issue said that Listerites cheered. Well, I looked down to the crowd and there were a lot of people there who weren't Listerites," Janz says. "I think a lot of what I wanted to be done would benefit all students, no matter their backgrounds or their living arrangement."

However, he says there's a downside to having a strong base of volunteers and supporters: if he fails to live up to the promises that he made during the campaign, he would have a great number of people to answer to.

"I know that [my volunteers] are going to be the first ones to hold my feet to the fire and make sure that I follow up on all the promises ... if I'm not able to ... I better have a damn good reason," he laughs.

Harper clears air on CO₂

Prime Minister praises new plan to store Alberta's pollution, but some feel measure too little, too late

ELLIOT KERR
News Writer

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in Edmonton last Thursday to announce \$156 million in proposed funding for carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and storage projects in Alberta, a province that produces one-third of Canada's CO₂ emissions.

"The details we have heard make this announcement sound more like a fossil fuel trust than an ecoTrust"

EMILIE MOORHOUSE,
SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA

The projects, which are to be funded by the \$1.5 billion ecoTrust that is to be unveiled in next week's federal budget, would include a proposed pipeline to transport captured CO₂ from Alberta's oil sands to depleted oil fields for storage. The announcements also included money for research into low-CO₂ coal-fired generators, and a municipal waste-fuelled electricity generation project for the City of Edmonton.

"Instead of pumping tonnes of carbon dioxide into the Earth's atmosphere, we may be able to collect it from our oil sands, our coal-fired electrical plants and other industrial emitters, and pump it underground where it will remain for

eternity," Harper said.

In conjunction with the federal announcement, Premier Ed Stelmach also announced Alberta's new legislation on climate change. Bill 3 will require all industrial emitters releasing more than 100 000 tonnes of CO₂ per year to cut their greenhouse gas emissions intensity (CO₂ per unit of energy production) by twelve per cent between 1 July and 31 December.

Companies that don't comply will be required to buy Alberta-based CO₂ credits to offset their emissions, or contribute \$15 per tonne of extra CO₂ to a technology fund to develop new climate change strategies.

The government expects the legislation to apply to about 100 large industrial emitters, who account for 70 per cent of industrial CO₂ emissions, mostly in oils and production and coal power plants.

The new Alberta bill doesn't legislate absolute reductions in CO₂, only reductions in intensity—if companies increase production, their allowable emissions will increase.

But not everyone was pleased with the announcement. Activists from the Sierra Club of Canada were on hand, characterizing the plan as empty rhetoric.

"The details we have heard make this announcement sound more like a fossil fuel trust than an ecoTrust," said Emilie Moorhouse, Atmosphere and Energy Campaigner for the Sierra Club of Canada.

PLEASE SEE CO2 ♦ PAGE 4

Inside

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Finding a silver lining

The Pandas basketball capped an improbable post-season with a heart-wrenching loss in the National final.

SPORTS, PAGE 11



Monster mash

Frankenstein isn't your typical horror story. Instead, it joins humour and beauty with all things terrifying.

A&E, PAGE 15

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The OntarianWord

compiled by Krystian Imgrum, CUP (University of Guelph)
The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca

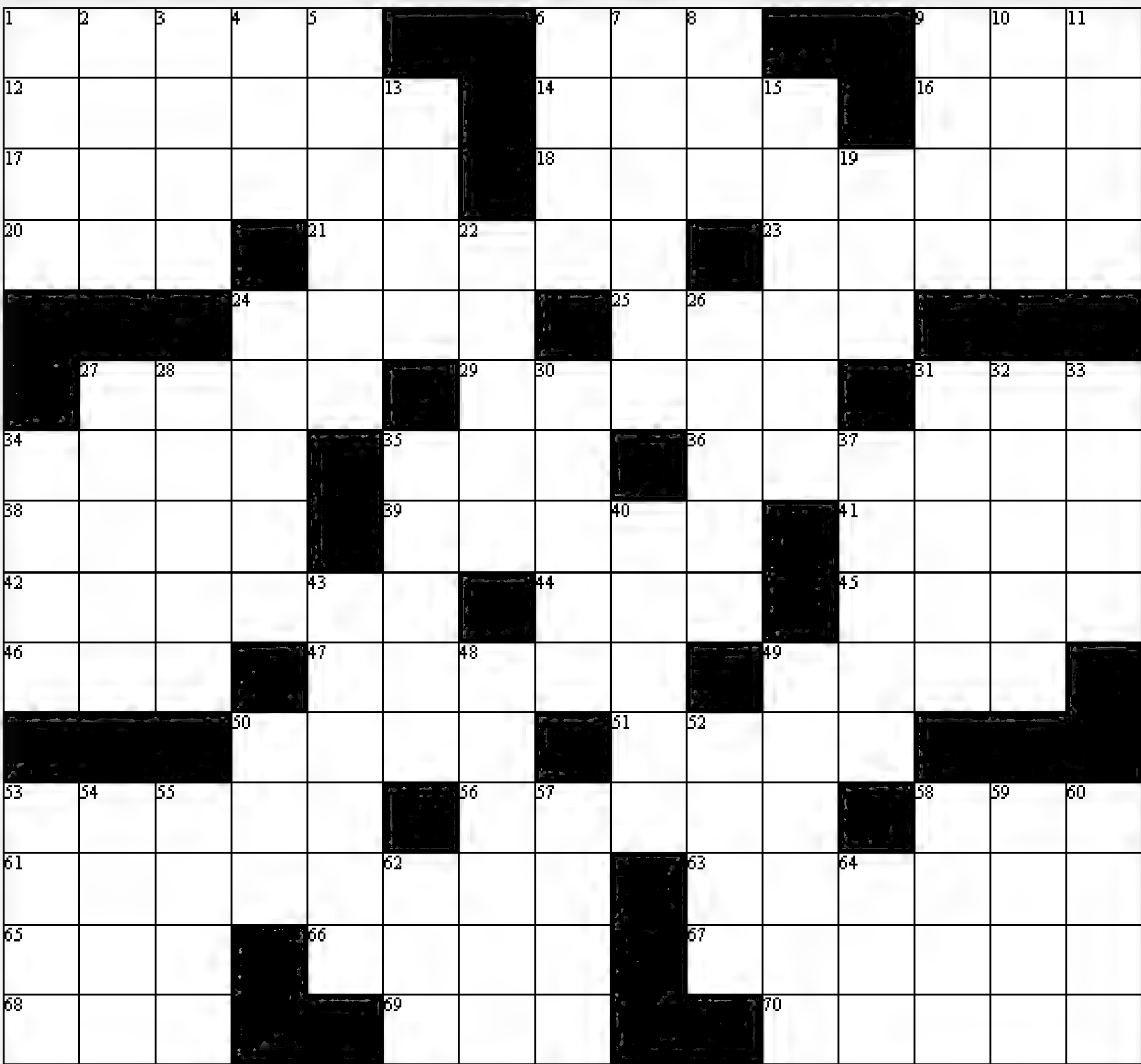
Across

- Literary barterer
- Popular contraction
- _____ job
- Attack
- Lunar tide
- Police acronym
- Wigwam
- Audacity
- Wax producer
- Automaton
- Desert features
- Ball's partner
- Cheese type
- Square set
- Odyssey villain
- Cleo's killer
- Oasis rival
- Phanerozoic, for ex.
- Unchanging
- Call
- Cracker meal
- Hilarious happening
- Penetrates
- Negative retorts
- Brink
- Aliens: abbr.
- Sculled
- Eleven constituents
- Asian sauce
- Barry Humphries character
- Foundation
- Travel needs
- Mineral spring
- Guitar type
- Henry VIII order
- Tape: abbr.
- Lucid
- Pariah's mark
- New York ball player
- Unify
- Throe

Down

- Divine will
- On the water
- Addict
- Emotive one
- Like a strategist's sample
- Division word
- Wobble
- He played it again
- Norse god
- Adore (with on)
- Light cycles
- Some born in July
- Meticulous one
- Pirate's drink
- Plains roamers
- Funeral hymn
- Office features
- Reflection word
- Weaklings
- Foolish
- Tolerate
- Trudges
- Actor Sellers, to friends
- A desperate housewife
- Emerson output
- Coliseum
- Cryptic writings
- Perches
- Valley
- Beginnings
- Canine command
- Smidgens
- Raised mound
- Sheltered
- Denomination
- Murdered, to the Corleones
- Genesis maker
- Actress Grier, et al.
- Michelangelo subject
- Unprocessed
- Cool

CROSSWORD



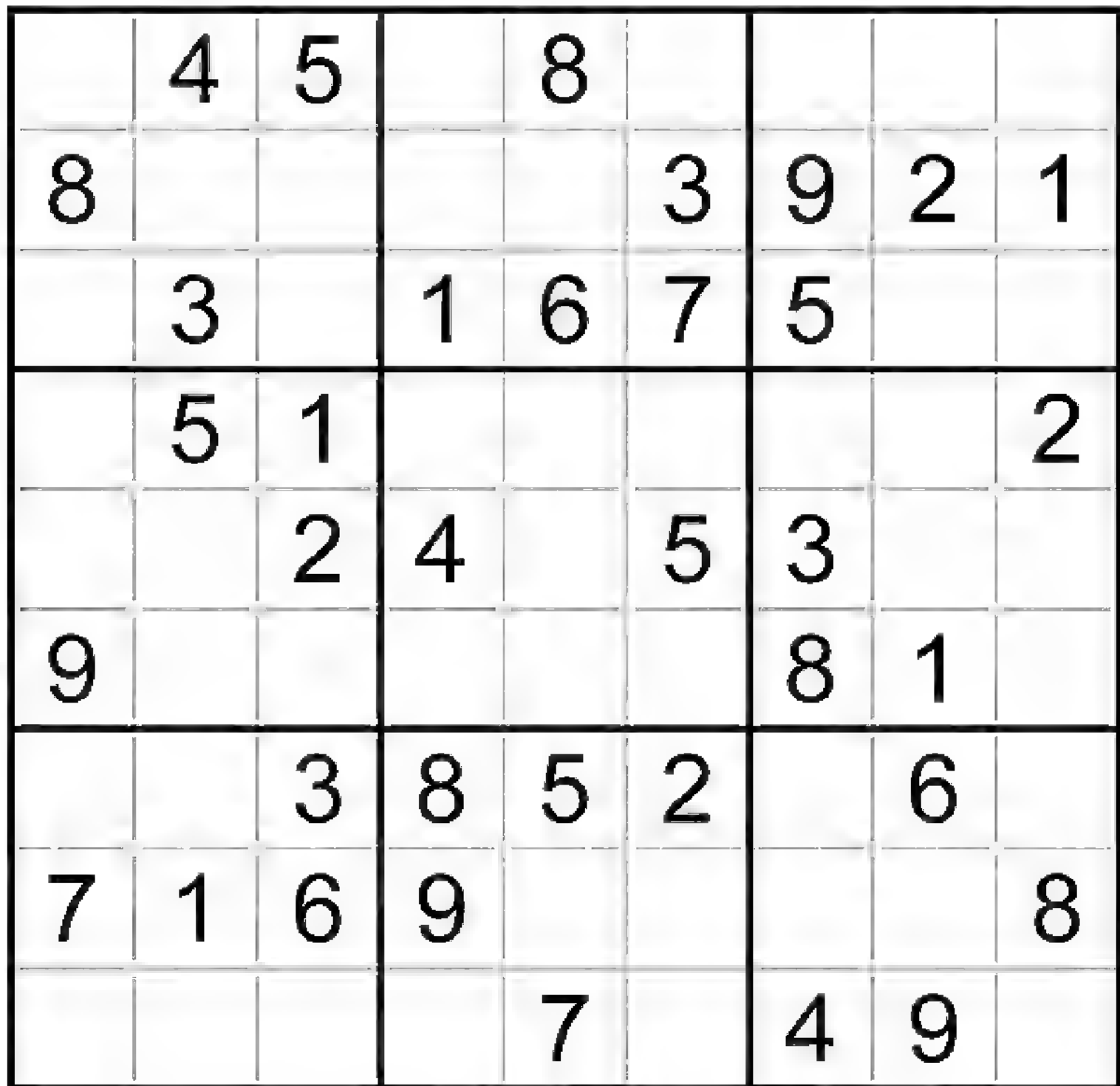
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Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that appeals to the non-partisan Society, OmbudsBoard. The members of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout, Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, and Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Lost Planet, Extreme Condition, and Tetris.

contributors

Catherine Scott, Oesha Poirn, Jen Huygen, Elliot Kerr, Elizabeth Vail, Bryan Saunders, Ben Macrow, Nick Frost, Andrew Renfree, Chris O'Leary, Trevor Phillips, Bo Jackson, Matthew Barrett, Colin Keigler, Victor Vargas, Patrick Ross, Paul Knoechel, Megan Cleavey, Ross Lockwood, Jenna Rajan, Jeff Martin, Kar Kramps, Scott C Bourgeois, Lisa Jones, Kim Smith, Tara Stiegitz, Mike Otto, Steffi Rosskopf, Nick Ayoub, Jackson Hinton, Phil Head.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

LISTERITES FED AFTER MIDNIGHT

During the weekend of 10-11 March, unknown hooligans caused an epic amount of damage to the first floor of Mackenzie Hall: glass bottles were smashed, lights were destroyed, and food, garbage and feces were smeared on the walls and floor. Cleanup is underway, and while the cost of the damage is unknown, residents will be held responsible for the repairs.

NOT A WHEELY NICE THING TO DO

On 10 March, a member of Campus 5-0 witnessed a male pushing and kicking at a disabled man in a wheelchair near 112 Street and 89 Avenue. The offender was found to be intoxicated

and had been kicked off campus before for his illegal antics; he was later picked up by Edmonton Police. The unlucky kickee was taken to the hospital for assessment.

LAST SEEN ENTERING BIOSCI IN 1993

At about midnight on 10 March, Campus Security received a call that there was a male in distress near Biological Sciences. They quickly found the drunken man—sans shoes and shirt—wandering about in the cold. He wasn't a student and was taken to his home just off campus.

CARE TO MAKE THAT A HAT TRICK?

At 9:24am on 11 March, constables on patrol found a familiar male lounging about on the second-level couches in Tory/Business Atrium. The stubborn sloth had been kicked off campus previously and was removed once more, this time with a shiny new ticket for trespassing.

CORRECTION

In our 8 March issue, the Gateway ran an article, "Students tackle housing crisis," in which it stated that third-year education student Jane Hawes is living at the Campus Saint-Jean residences. While Hawes studies at Campus Saint-Jean, she doesn't live in residence and the \$600 a month she pays is in

off-campus housing. The residence rate at Campus Saint-Jean for 2006/07 is \$426 per month for a single room. The error in Hawes' living location and the subsequent perceived inaccuracy of Campus Saint-Jean's residency rates was an error that occurred during the editing process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Written by Catherine Scott

FRANCOPHONE WEEK AT CSJ

For those who are unaware of what goes on in campus life, this week could serve as a gentle reminder that the University of Alberta actually has two distinct campuses in the city. The Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ)—the U of A's French campus—is hosting International Francophone Week from 9-24 March.

Normand Fortin, the Director of Centre d'Enseignement et de Recherche Fran  ais (Centre for French Teaching and Research) at CSJ, said that there's a very strong francophone community here in Edmonton and that this week is all about honouring their unique heritage.

"Because we're in an English environment and where most of the francophones in Alberta are bilingual ... we tend to forget that there is a heritage there," Fortin explained.

He added that Edmonton's francophone community is very active and vibrant, explaining that the slogan of this week is "Francophonie: I'm a part of it," with the purpose of including all students who understand the French language. Fortin said he wants his students to notice that the francophone community consists of many different cultures.

"We all speak the same language, but we all come from different cultures," Fortin said, noting that although CSJ is very connected to the U of A, many students on the West Campus do not realize that CSJ is part of the University.

International Francophone Week highlights a different francophone country every year; this year the focus is Lebanon. CSJ has a memorandum of understanding that has been signed with St. Joseph's University in Beirut, and Fortin says that they have many students of Lebanese origin at CSJ. Lebanon has a francophone community that dates back to when it was a colony of France. Fortin pointed to events that took place in Lebanon this summer that merit attention from the francophone community.

"We need to be open as francophones and be sensitive because we're a larger community of different cultures ... that make up this international French community," Fortin stated.

Alecia Langlois, a first-year Arts student who studies the French language on the West Campus, agreed with Fortin that the francophone presence in Alberta is often overlooked. However, she thinks this week might bring more awareness to the francophone community that isn't always seen in Alberta.

"I don't doubt that [Alberta's francophone community] exists, but I don't see it often," she noted.

For a list of events for the week, visit CSJ's website.

STREETERS

The Students' Union's elections ended Thursday, and a new batch of SU Executives are ready to take their positions in May.

If, hypothetically, you had been elected Vice-President (Awesome), what would you do?



Brendan Bowen
Education I



Adrian Fahrni
Arts III



Katie Vail
Ag/For II



Janelle Morin
Arts III

I would allocate everyone giant robotic ants with laser death rays to do their bidding.

I would change the entire University into a circus and turn all the [professors] into carnies.

I would reduce everyone's tuition by \$38 and break apart the Students' Union. I'd say that all women must wear short shorts between the months of September and December, and all guys may wear the shirts between January and April.

I would have a massive party in Quad with free alcohol for everyone. With laser beams.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Mike Otto



ABSOLUT FRIDAYS
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NICK WEIBE

ART UNFILTERED Spiegelman says he's not a speaker, but a preformer, because "they're still allowed to smoke on stage."

Spiegelman gets graphic about 'Forbidden Images' for RS Series

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Not many authors pen articles that get a magazine pulled from bookstore shelves in Canada. Even fewer wear that that distinction proudly. But not many are like Art Spiegelman, the third and final guest of the Students' Union's Revolutionary Speaker Series.

"It's in honour of Indigo Books that I called this speech 'Forbidden Images,'" Spiegelman told the audience in Myer Horowitz last Wednesday.

Last year the Canadian bookstore giant pulled the June 2006 issue of *Harper's* magazine from its store shelves because of an article penned by Spiegelman. Indigo objected to Spiegelman's piece, which reprinted and critiqued editorial cartoons featuring the prophet Muhammad printed by the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*; the cartoons sparked outrage and riots across Europe and the Middle East and launched an international debate on freedom of speech versus religious tolerance.

However, despite the company's refusal to carry the issue, Spiegelman joked that the article was seen by many eyes north of the 49th.

"I'm told that *Harper's* sold better that issue in Canada than they ever have before," he told the audience with a laugh, adding that when material is repressed, it does nothing more than creates a greater demand for it.

Spiegelman, whose speech explored the unique ability of cartoons and images to spark outrage, is no stranger to controversial cartoons. The New York-based artist and writer is probably best known for the graphic novel *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, which told the story of his parents' time spent in a German concentration camp during World War II. The story "masked" various groups involved in the conflict in the guises of animals—the Jewish victims as mice, the Nazis as cats, the British as fish, the Poles as pigs and the Americans as dogs—as a way of showing the folly in identifying people by their ethnicity or nationality.

Spiegelman explained that the form of *Maus* was integral in telling the story of his father's idea. He noted that comics and cartoons connect with viewers in the way that other media can't duplicate.

"Comics speak directly to the mind," he said. "They're iconic images."

Human beings don't think or remember in pure language,

according to Spiegelman. Instead, they cobble together a disjointed series of striking images and memorable dialogue—and that comics and cartoons are media ripe to reconstruct these methods.

Released in 1986, *Maus*, a work that Spiegelman says he's still living in the shadow of, owes a large debt to the comics that Spiegelman read as a kid. Using excerpts from his yet-unreleased autobiographical graphic novel, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@?**, he guided the audience through his introduction to the white-washed funnies of his youth, to the gruesome horror tales purchased by his unwitting but well-intentioned father, to an era in comics that he simply referred to as "too many superheroes." However, he said that a large part of *Maus*—the idea that comics can be used to examine the gritty reality under the surface of clean, Mickey Mouse-esque medium—came from *MAD* magazine.

"It's the problem with images, they're open. They can move towards parts of your brain that you're not steering them towards. Language is easier to navigate."

ART SPIEGELMAN

"*MAD* had a kind of irony that worked very well for the time," Spiegelman said, adding that it's hard to describe the impact of the magazine in today's climate. "I'm afraid that the *MAD* inoculation to popular culture is wearing off. We need something after the irony. Because you can't go home to sincerity."

For Spiegelman, even in those early days, comics could be used to strengthen stereotypes or to weaken them. He showed examples of two very different comics, both of them dealing with the Korean War. One displayed a trio of American soldiers, one recently killed, which was designed to show the frustration and uncertainty that many people in the United States had towards the war. The other cover, produced around the same time, showed a couple of GIs nonchalantly blasting enemies

away with grenades.

Spiegelman said that the former example attempted to show that the war was fought by frightened young me, while the second dehumanized the enemy. He added that cartoons and comics have the ability to both deconstruct and analyze or trivialize controversial events.

The *Harper's* article where he discussed the Danish cartoons came almost by accident, when one of the editors of the magazine noticed the obsessive curiosity that Spiegelman had since the beginning of the controversy and suggested that he write an article on it. Still, Spiegelman jumped at the chance to do so.

"Nothing that important has happened to cartoons in the last 100 years—maybe forever," he said.

After studying the cartoons, Spiegelman came to the conclusion that the mess didn't come from the cartoons themselves, which he described as tame and, for the most part, not all that original. Instead of a non-event put on by a far-right newspaper, the cartoons were blown out of proportion by the media who caused such a stir over whether they should be reprinted or not.

"Those cartoons would never have become amplified into such a world-class issue if they were allowed to be the nasty little inept event that they were originally made as," he said. "They were so suppressed and hidden by newspapers ... it became hard to see what the actual context of the cartoons were."

Spiegelman further criticized the cartoons for "afflicting the afflicted," picking on Denmark's already marginalized Muslim community by using the cartoons to create a Catch-22.

"One on hand, if [the Danish Muslim community] says nothing about the cartoons, it was a sign of disrespect and they weren't standing up to it. On the other hand, if they protested, they would be told 'Well, you don't understand free speech,'" he said.

As to why images, even relatively innocent ones, can cause such outrage, Spiegelman says that the images can be interpreted in many different ways, and can imply a meaning that wasn't intended by the artist.

"It's the problem with images, they're open. They can move towards parts of your brain that you're not steering them towards. Language is easier to navigate," he said.

THE LEGEND CONTINUES...

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Carbon tech may need work

C02 • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Rather than bringing Canada closer to its Kyoto targets, this would only encourage a continued dependence on oil and other fossil fuels," Moorhouse said.

Even Prime Minister Harper admitted carbon capture and storage may present obstacles.

"It is possible that it will become evident that there needs to be more work to advance this [carbon capture transport and storage] technology to a point where it is effective," Harper noted.

And Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner said it's unlikely that many of the affected companies can even meet the new Albertan standards.

"The fact of the matter is that the vast majority of [affected companies] are going to have to make contributions to the technology fund. I believe technology is key to delivering on Albertans' vision for emission management," Renner said. "By dedicating a technology fund right here in Alberta, we are able to draw on our own renewable resource of innovation."



Fact: Children grow faster in the springtime.

Fact: Gateway news writers' abilities also develop faster in the springtime.

GATEWAY NEWS

tis the season to join, since the snow melt of 1910.

New version of exam will be more difficult

GRE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[They] are the most significant changes to the GRE exam in its 55-year history, and impact pretty much every aspect of the exam," said Susan Kaplan, Director of Graduate Programs for Kaplan Test Prep and Admission. Kaplan offers test preparation programs for entrance exams, and also offers private tutoring and one-on-one admissions guidance.

The GRE, administered by Educational Testing Services (ETS), will be available in its current format until 31 July. It will be reintroduced, starting on 10 September, creating a void for test-taking during the month of August.

Kaplan explained the main reasons for the changes.

"One is they want the GRE exam to be a more accurate predictor of success at graduate school. Along with that they want to reduce the effects of memorization on the exam," she said. "The final [reason] is they want to address some security concerns they've had."

The test provides a general assessment of verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and analytical writing. It's either accepted or recommended for almost any accredited graduate or professional school.

The GRE as a requirement varies based on department at the University of Alberta. The Graduate Students Association and the Department of Computer Science, one of the faculties

that accepts the GRE, declined comment on the changes.

The GRE exam is currently offered online at computer-based test centres almost every day of the year. However, Kaplan believes that the cutback to 35 set times a year will increase the need for physical test centres in order to accommodate the almost half-a-million students who write the GRE each year. ETS has plans to increase the number of testing centres from 300 to 6000 worldwide.

Aside from the test dates, Kaplan explained that the actual format of the exam will change significantly.

"The current GRE exam is in what's called a computer-adaptive format, so it's given on the computer and essentially adapted to your performance. So if you're answering questions correctly, it will serve you up more difficult questions," Kaplan said.

"The new GRE exam will still be on computer, but is not going to have that adaptive format to it. Instead everybody taking the exam will get the exact same questions, so the test maker's going to need to ask more questions at a wider variety of difficulty levels," she said.

These changes are designed to address concerns of unfair advantages over the past number of years, with previous test-takers posting answers on the Internet.

Any changes implemented in the fall



JOSH NAULT

I DIS-A-GRE! Grad school applicants will soon be facing a longer, tougher exam.

are confined to the GRE General Test. Unaffected are the eight GRE Subject Tests, which act as more specific indicators of proficiency in fields ranging from biology to literature in English to Mathematics.

Kaplan also stresses that the changes carry some negative implications for potential grad students.

"We're recommending, as long as people have time to prepare, that they do take the current version of the

exam, because the new one is going to be longer, it's going to be more difficult, and it's going to be offered less often," she said.

She recommends spending about three months preparing for the exam, and encourages students to register early.

"People should really be thinking about how this impacts them right now and [start] making their plans," Kaplan reiterated.



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U-Pass in service with Yes vote

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Student representatives don't often celebrate increasing fees; however, the final approval of a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) for University of Alberta undergraduates is an exception.

Last week 84 per cent of students voted in favour of implementing a U-Pass program, set to start September 2007 at a cost of \$75 per student, per semester. The U-Pass will provide students with unlimited access to regular transit services in Edmonton, St Albert and Strathcona County.

"I was really overwhelmed with the amount of support that students gave for this program—84 per cent. It really was overwhelming considering that a number of years ago for \$60 we saw approval that was lower than this," said Students' Union Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, referring to the 2003 U-Pass referendum wherein 63 per cent of student voters approved having a U-Pass at a maximum fee of \$60 per student per semester.

At the time of the 2003 referendum, the Edmonton Transit System (ETS) said that it would need a minimum of \$120 per student, per semester in order to break even on the U-Pass. Unable to meet the \$60 price mandated by students, the referendum expired—leaving the SU to try and negotiate a way to fill the funding gap over the next four years.

"I've never thought that it would come down as low as it has—to \$75. And I've never ever thought that it would pass with an 84 per cent approval rating. It's unbelievable to me," said Chris Samuel, 2003/04 VP (External).

Samuel explained that, despite yearly Executive turnover, the U-Pass had always remained a high priority for the SU's advocacy department. In fall 2007, a \$15 per student per semester funding commitment from the University, along with \$30 per student, per semester funding commitments from the three municipalities, made the U-Pass a concretely feasible plan.

"I'm really proud of what student executives have done over the years and it's my honour to just [be here to] put it over the edge," SU President Sam Power said.

Cournoyer, who had organized

the Yes side of the U-Pass referendum, explained its costs will increase according to the Alberta Consumer Price Index and that it would have to go back for student approval in another referendum if it needs to be increased beyond that.

And while the SU is known as a zealous opponent of student fee increases, Power stressed that the U-Pass fees provide a service students wanted.

"Ultimately, this was a student decision," Power said. "We would never put a fee in front of students unless it's gone through proper procedures and they've said they agree to it."

"I don't think students are unequivocally opposed to fee increases. I think that students are opposed to fee increases when they don't see a responding benefit. And I don't think the U-Pass falls under that category," Samuel agreed.

Cost of other U-Passes (Highest to Lowest, 2005/06 rates)

Institution	\$/term	Increased ridership in first year
SFU	98	-
UBC	88	60 per cent
U of Calgary	62	30 per cent
Brock (St Catherine's)	60	-
St. Mary's (Halifax)	57.50	-
Western (London)	57.21	50 per cent
U of Victoria	56	28 per cent
Guelph	55.19	-
McMaster (Hamilton)	33.75	-
Queen's (Kingston)	20.21	-

Figures based on SU statistics

Money matters dominate Coke vote

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Even though 57 per cent of students voted in favour of the University of Alberta's exclusive beverage agreement with Coca-Cola—put to vote 7-8 March in the annual Students' Union election—some students pledge to continue lobbying against the contract.

The non-binding plebiscite question asked undergraduate students if they would support the extension of the 1998 agreement, which gives Coca-Cola a cold-beverage monopoly on campus in exchange for more than \$500 000 annually in scholarships, bursaries and student services provided by the corporation.

Denise Ogonoski, manager of the No campaign, felt that the plebiscite question was skewed toward the Yes side. The question mentioned the \$524 377 that the Coke agreement provides to the University and student annually; however, Ogonoski argued that only \$50 000 is given directly to the SU for student services.

"It seems as though students' votes are basically being bought by Coca-Cola," Ogonoski said.

The plebiscite was presented to Students' Council by a group opposing the contract, who argued that Coca-Cola engages in environmental and human rights abuses. Ogonoski pointed to alleged unethical labour practices in countries such as Sudan, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia and India.

But Brock Richardson, manager of the Coke Yes campaign, argued that the issue really boiled down to finances; while the whole \$500 000 may not go directly to the SU, it ultimately benefits students. The vote in favour of Coke assures against the loss of funding, and makes sure the SU has a voice at the bargaining table when it comes time to renegotiate a contract.

"I wanted to let [students] know

that voting No doesn't mean getting rid of Coke, and let them know that the University will still sign a deal," Richardson said of his campaign. "This wasn't a question of whether or not we wanted Coke on campus."

"First we focused on the ethics, but then we realized that people really care about the money here—the money that Coke is giving to the University," Ogonoski added.

The agreement was originally signed between the SU, the U of A and Coca-Cola in 1998, and was set to expire 31 May, 2008. Under the terms of the new ten-year agreement, which will be retroactively implemented on 1 June 2005, the company will continue its exclusive hold on campus until 31 May, 2015.

"First we focused on the ethics, but then we realized that people really care about the money here—the money that Coke is giving to the University."

**DENISE Ogonoski,
MANAGER, COKE NO**

SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Chris Cunningham explained that the U of A ran the risk of not meeting its sales targets from vending machines under the original contract—which would have given Coca-Cola an added two years of sales monopoly without any funding benefits to the University or the SU.

"The most important feature of extending the contract would be the removal of any mention of vending targets," Cunningham said. "Because the new contract will be retroactive it will

do away with that two-year penalty and also remove any mention of having to obtain a certain vending target in the future."

Though Cunningham couldn't confirm when this new contract would be signed, he said that it would be available for all students to view once implemented. The original contract has been private since its signing, but was made available for students to view earlier this academic year.

Still, Ogonoski questioned the SU's business practices and pointed out that the SU exists to represent students—not corporations. She said that denying students an alternative is undemocratic.

Prior to the nomination deadline, the No side was fined \$900 of its \$1000 budget, as the SU's Chief Returning Officer ruled that materials distributed by anti-Coke groups on campus constituted pre-campaigning. The No side argued that the materials in question weren't related to the campaign, but distributed by a separate group; however the CRO ruled against their appeals.

With an unrestricted budget, the Yes side spent \$997 on its campaign while the No side was limited to a largely verbal campaign.

Despite the loss, Ogonoski said lobbying efforts against Coca-Cola will continue on campus.

"We think that the 43 per cent of the people that voted No is a pretty decent number, given that we couldn't reach as many people as we wanted to with our limited resources, so we're going to keep raising awareness," she said, adding that the anti-Coke groups have yet to sit down to discuss a strategy. "We have more flexibility now in how we can do that 'cause we have no CRO to oversee everything we do, and to approve everything we do."

"We think that it's good to have a constantly engaged and educated student body and we're going to try and help with that."



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Fact: On 15 January, 1919, a tank filled with 2.5 million gallons of crude molasses burst on the property of the United States Industrial Alcohol building, located in the heart of Boston. The boiling syrup flooded the streets of the city surprisingly quickly, killing 21 people and injuring dozens more.



Fact: There has never been a death relating to molasses or similar baking ingredient in the 96-year history of Gateway news meetings, held 3-04 SUB on Fridays.

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Lougheed dwells on complex Alberta

Former premier's speech touches on the stickiest topics facing the province

OLESIA PLOKHII
News Staff

Former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed was on campus last Wednesday to give a lecture on the "Growing Complexity of Governing" as part of this year's Eric J. Hanson Memorial Lecture. His talk covered issues ranging from health care to the "out-of-control" oil sands situation in the province.

According to the lecture host, Lougheed propelled Alberta through what many politicians call the "most challenging years" in her history, battling issues varying from the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) price shocks to the Patriation of the Constitution, an act that officially transferred legislation from Britain to Canada. Lougheed, premier from 1971–84, gave insight on many of the contentious decisions facing government today, and began with voicing his disregard for the hostile nature of Question Period during caucus meetings in both parliament

and provincial legislatures.

Lougheed said he doesn't think that politicians comprehend the impact heckling has on the public, and gave former Alberta premier Ernest Manning credit for not tolerating it in his government of the day.

"I don't think it's a good thing for public awareness, and I don't think it is a good thing for encouraging people to go into public life. There is too often a lack of recognition and respect for the individual Member of Parliament," he said, adding that repercussions should be dispensed to offensive individuals.

Switching gears, Lougheed noted that although the topic of climate change is heavily debated nowadays, it's a difficult issue that has lingered for years.

"I think it's possible for Canada to take positions on the environment," Lougheed said.

However, he noted that he believes environmental initiatives should be implemented through a North American reduction in emissions, instead of an international effort such as Kyoto.

In terms of health care, Lougheed noted that the Canadian public expects more involvement from the federal government, but stressed that it's unfortunate that citizens fail to acknowledge the fact that health care amendment resides in the jurisdiction of the provincial arena.

"It's a tricky issue, and it demonstrates the public difficulty in communicating the differentiating role between provincial and federal responsibilities," he said.

Lougheed also discussed one of the most controversial issues plaguing our government today: Québécois sovereignty and Ottawa's perpetual focus on the province, which he said results in resentment from other provinces.

"My political instinct tells me that in 2007 there is not nearly the goodwill and support—from the West in particular—towards Québec as there was when I was premier," he said.

Lougheed also touched on rural matters, saying that he sees the opportunity to reiterate statements made about



PHIL HEAD

THE WAY IT WAS Lougheed discussed the complexities of politics in Alberta.

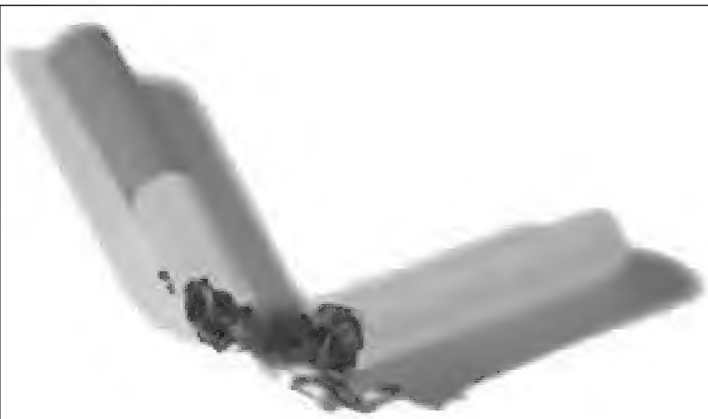
Alberta's oil sands on different podiums and forums in the past.

"I think [the oil sands situation is] out of control and I think we're going to pay a price for it. Primarily, it's out of control because we have authorized a number of companies to build their plants at the same time," he said.

Lougheed was most vivacious, though, when speaking about the current status quo of an ill-informed public

about caucus and its purpose, meaning and process.

"I don't understand why so few comments are made and so little is written about government caucus and how it works," he said. "If you're trying to understand the environment that we live in from the political point of view under our system of government, you've got to understand what caucus means," he concluded.



Fact: The earliest recorded case of a man giving up smoking was on 5 April, 1679, when Johan Katsu, Sheriff of Turku, Finland, wrote in his diary "I quit smoking tobacco." He died one month later.



Fact: Dan Rather has warned: "Be careful. Journalism is more addictive than crack cocaine."

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 13 march, 2007

Democracy still on standby in Legislature

WITHOUT LAUNCHING INTO THE SCIENTIFIC intricacies of how excessive pollution in the form of carbon emissions is damaging to the ecosystem, or how the depletion of natural resources is occurring at a frightening pace in this booming province of ours, environmental degradation is an issue to be taken seriously. Planetary woes are not insignificant trumpery concocted by a few radial extremists, but rather a matter of grave consequence for the immediate future of over 6.5 billion people. And while it's clear at this point that Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach will put business interests above those of Mother Earth, brushing the issue off in jest is not an appropriate response to what should be a constructive debate.

Don't get me wrong, I don't *hate laughter*; in fact, lightening the mood can often go a long way when dealing with particularly heavy subject matter. However, there's a distinction to be made between taking a breather and trivializing an effort to flesh out a topic of concern—especially during legislative debate.

But trivializing the need for Alberta to reduce its emissions is exactly what Stelmach did during question period yesterday when New Democrat MLA Dave Eggen asked the leader of the Progressive Conservatives how the government plans to reduce the *intensity* of the province's carbon dioxide emissions, instead of focusing on the *absolute* amount.

Rather than taking the time to craft an intelligent response, Steady Eddie followed in the footsteps of former premier Ralph Klein, continuing the proud tradition of piddling weighty topics in favour of playing Mr Funnymen. "You want absolute?" Stelmach asked Eggen. "Absolutely, right now? Park your car—that will give you absolute emissions." Luckily for Stelmach, garnering laughter is guaranteed, since 60 of the legislature's 83 seats are filled by his faithful party members, who'd rather make light of climate change than accept the challenge of tackling it in a progressive manner.

Despite the fact that Eggen is one of just four elected NDPs in the province, the issue he brought to the table extends beyond political stripes; simply put, it affects the social well-being of PCs in the same way that it affects the minority who identify with the opposition and their different point of view. As a leader of the province, Stelmach represents each and every Albertan, and whether or not he agrees that environmental concerns should be prioritized, he has a social responsibility as a public figure to, at the very least, consider the opinions and ideas of other elected members of the Legislature. Government is a strange beast that exists for the very purpose of argumentation; its role is to negotiate contentious issues in the spirit of co-operation, and refusing to do so is nothing short of dictatorial.

Stelmach's petty remarks exemplify the greatest political challenge in Alberta: lack of discourse between the different parties. While it's clear that the vote will always sway in the favour of the PCs and that motions from the oppositions are likely to be shot down by the ruling majority, it's nothing short of irresponsible to refuse a healthy debate—to actually challenge oneself to think. And though discussions of such nature are prone to go around in circles, taking more time than necessary to arrive at unimaginative solutions, perhaps if politicians spent less time trying to outwit each other with what results in trite insults, governments might actually begin to represent the people who elect them.

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Where'd the time go?

Oil prices too high?
Make the sun rise earlier!
Fuck bio-diesel

MATT FREHNER
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

Listerites are hacks too

To the Listerite who so lovingly screamed, "in your face SU hacks, we beat you!" at the Students' Union election night results party, I must ask, are you not also a hack as well?

Yes, Michael Janz, or "Janzie" as you so affectionately call him, is going to be the new SU President, and he currently sits on Council as an Arts Councilor, which by definition would also make him an SU hack as well, would it not? So did you beat him as well? And I bet you are going to be surprised to learn that through the hard work you contributed to the Janz campaign, you unwittingly became a happy, do-gooder of a hack yourself.

This letter is not meant as an attack on Michael Janz or his campaign that he ran. In fact, I think Mr Janz will do a remarkable job and will continue the work that the past SU presidents have completed thus far. Rather, this letter is a call for the before-mentioned Listerite to widen the Lister world that he lives in and perhaps embrace the SU hack that is dying to escape from inside.

ASHLEY YU
Science IV

More 'real feminists' needed, stat

As a feminist, I found [Elizabeth McMillan's] article "More women needed, stat" (6 March) to be both insulting and sexist—in fact, insulting towards both men and women (not to discount the other genders).

Capable women deserve positions in government because they accurately represent the views of their constituents, not because of their reproductive organs. A true feminist would argue for their election based on their merits, in a gender-egalitarian form. To do so otherwise erodes democracy and demeans women.

While I do agree that women in politics are faced with undue biases, I do not believe that insulting men is the solution. You argue that by electing women, you will more accurately reflect the makeup (pun intended) of our society. However, since when do all women, or men for that matter, think alike? People should vote based on their political leanings, not based on kindergarten "gurlz rule!!" logic.

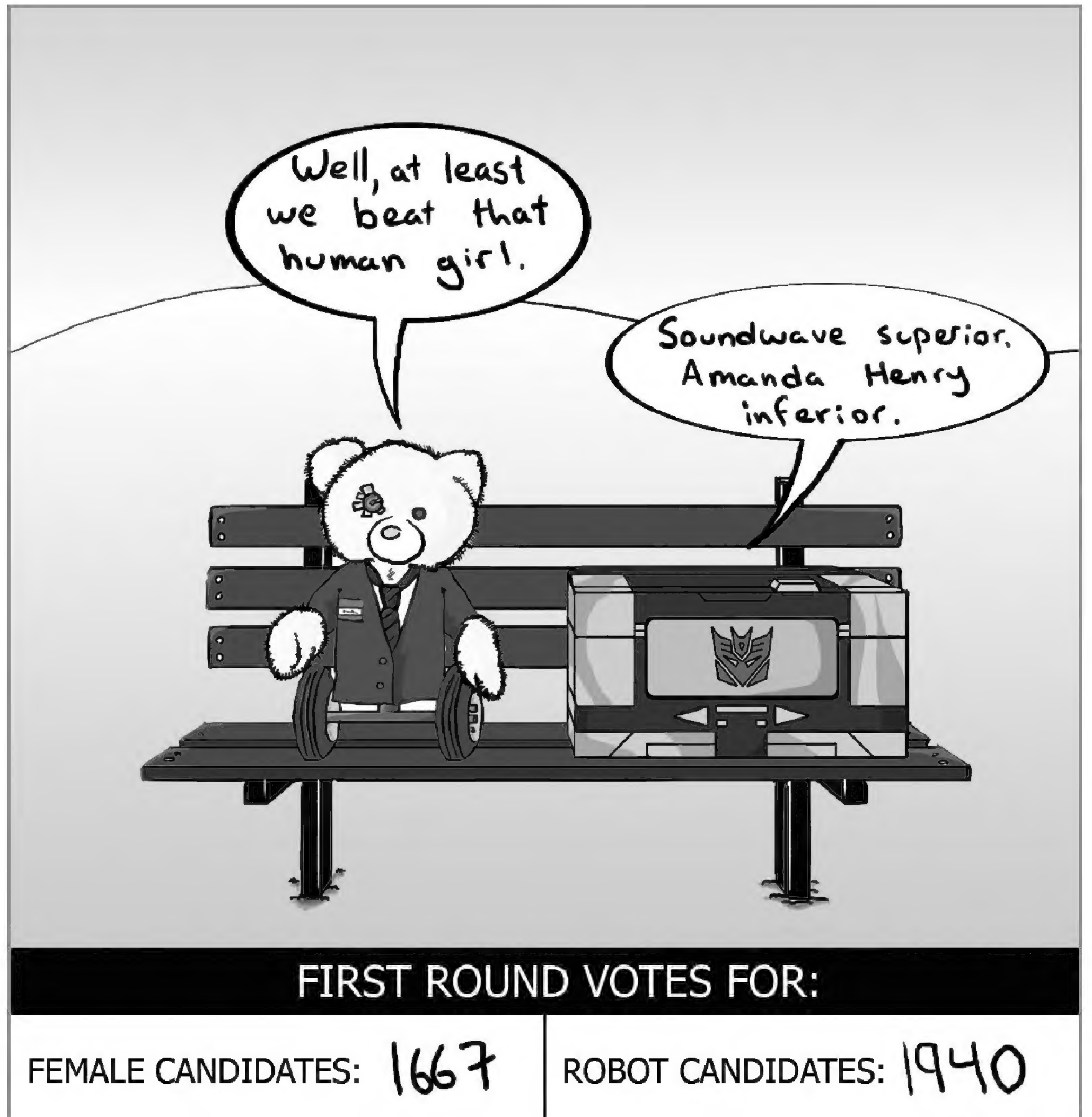
ALAN TANNAS
Arts III

Time for Gateway to grow a heart

(Re: "Time for Council to grow a pair," 8 March). To be honest, I didn't even read this article. I have lost all interest in SU politics. But I was interested in filling in the blanks of the title: "Time for Council to grow a pair ... of testicles," I'm assuming.

After I stopped giggling profusely at the thought of male genitalia, I had a thought: is it still kosher to associate testicles with fiscal responsibility? If so, I guess I should really start thinking seriously about getting back to the kitchen.

This is like someone telling me that if I "got some balls" or would just "man up," I would be a better all-



MATTHEW BARRETT

around person. Despite the audacity of such a claim, things like this are said all the time. And we wonder why there was only one woman running in the SU election campaign.

MAGGIE BOSSE
Arts IV

Smoking not just a habit

(Re: "Will that be anti-smoking legislation or not?" 8 March). Smoking is not a hobby, Mr Owen. Smoking is a drug addiction. It's unfortunate and sad how many people like you treat smokers as second-class people ...

Almost all smokers I've met desperately wish to quit, whether secretly or openly. However, unlike dancing, playing basketball or driving on the wrong side of the road in England, smoking is not a habit that can be easily shaken off. Nicotine is the most addictive substance known to man, and one can get addicted to smoking as soon as they have their first cigarette. Instead of looking down upon smokers, non-smokers need to be more understanding of this medical condition.

OLYA PRUDKA
Engineering III

Alliance stats stink

Re: "Victoria Proposes Sewage as Potential Energy Resource," 8 March.

How about a lesson regarding the quotation of scholarly works at this academic institution? When someone from the Georgia Strait Alliance is quoted as saying that the fecal coliform bacteria level is over 1400 per cent too high on the surface of the Georgia Strait, you might want to verify that they haven't placed a couple of extra zeroes in there before it is sent to the press.

I checked their staff [on] their website, and while many of them have an "interest and passion" for environmental issues or a "background"

in biology, only one of them claims to hold a credential that could even partially qualify them to make a statement about fecal coliform levels.

Yes, crapping in the ocean, as Victoria has done for many years, is likely not as good for the environment as, say, *not* crapping in the ocean; however, to suggest that fecal coliform levels are more than 1400 per cent too high in a waterway of that size [and] with a tidal flow of that magnitude is *pure* crap.

I lived on Vancouver Island for 15 years and thoroughly enjoyed the pristine beauty and cleanliness of the Georgia Strait. While living there I also had a very quick swim in Prospect Lake when, due to geese, it was around five times over the fecal coliform level—and it was quite immediately apparent, hence my short stay in the water. If that lake, which was measured by a regulated government agency, was five times the recreational level then I can assure you that a body of water that was 1400 per cent over would resemble the fluid in a non-flushing toilet at a frat house after a full weekend of drinking Guinness and competitively eating expired carnival food dipped in cream of prune/asparagus soup.

CHRIS SCHEIDEMAN
Engineering III

T-shirt topples tally

My fellow students, allow me to defend my own position. I love politics. I study them here at the University and I explore possibilities and opportunities to engage and discuss politics in our community. I believe that I have been completely open-minded in this process and have considered all sides from many differing perspectives.

On Thursday I was invited to two different events concerning politics. The first was an evening with the Rt Hon Prime Minister of our country, who spoke intelligently and with prestige regarding economic

development, accountable government and the possibility of reducing and restructuring our country's upper house, the Senate. By listening to the PM's speech, I found that I completely agree with his words and his ideas, and thus I proudly wore the blue shirt I was given.

I proceeded to my next political event, the SU Election Result Party at the Powerplant. I made a conscious decision to wear my blue shirt: to be facetious and controversial, and to encourage debate and discussion amongst my politically minded friends. My plan was successful in that I was able to engage in several interesting and perplexing asides with some friends and some foes. As far as I am concerned, this is the best part of the education process and essentially what university ought to be.

I will not apologize for attending either event, nor will I apologize for wearing a blue shirt. I will however admit that of all things, perhaps I should not have offered an arm to my friend Amanda, whom I wanted to support and praise for a job well done. I understand that for the purpose of her platform and the integrity she holds within student politics, I should not have imposed affiliation by wearing blue while offering support. I hope that the students who judged her for this will reconsider.

CANDICE MALCOLM
Political Science IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Does Edmonton need a new downtown arena?

The city and its centre would benefit from a brand-new barn



COLIN
KEIGHER

point

In each Canada's three biggest metropolises—Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal—the major hockey arenas are located within their thriving city centres. In the case of Edmonton, its major hockey arena is located on the northeast end, and its downtown core is nowhere near thriving past 5pm on any given night.

However, this may change as soon as this summer, as recommendations from a committee made up of members from Northlands Park and the Edmonton Oilers will be weighed, and a decision on whether or not to refurbish the existing arena or build a new one will be taken.

Proponents of the new arena project have stated that sports stadiums have made many American downtown rehabilitation projects a success. In the case of San Diego, a baseball stadium was built for that city's Padres, and it spurred almost \$4.2 billion in development in the surrounding neighbourhood—the owner had originally predicted \$450 million.

The Vancouver Canucks moved into their downtown arena (GM Place) from the east end's Pacific Coliseum over a decade ago, and the lands around the new arena have gone from unused industrial tracts to high-scale condominium developments. In the case of Winnipeg's MTS Centre, built in 2004, it was constructed on top of the old Eaton's

building in the downtown core to replace the out-dated Winnipeg Arena. Since its construction, it has become the 30th-busiest arena in the world in terms of events. Partly because of this, there has been speculative talk of bringing back an NHL hockey team to the Manitoba capital.

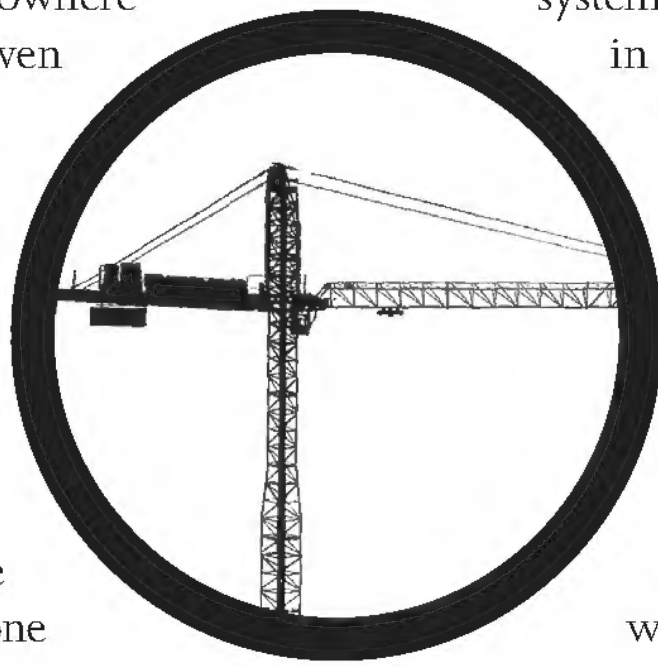
This is an opportunity for Edmonton that simply can't be passed up. Downtown development has been increasing over the past few years, but this may be the shot in the arm that could increase the speed of development and finally give Edmonton's downtown core the lively, bustling character that it hasn't had in a long time.

Apart from the nebulous mall-and-pedway system, there's no real central point in the downtown core that can attract a large number of people, but a new hockey arena in the city centre should definitely change that.

Opponents of such a plan see it differently, however: they argue that a city of the size and reputation of Edmonton doesn't require a new world-class arena to be built; that concerns of the city's residents should

be taken up instead. This is very arrogant to state, as funding for the project between private investors and the varying levels of government haven't been confirmed, and a new arena should fit into the overall picture that Edmonton residents expect.

A new stadium isn't going to bite away into the social projects that already exist in the city. Given that most of the new major arenas built in Canada today weren't paid for by municipalities, Edmonton can't afford not to go through with such a plan. Renovating the existing arena, on the other hand, is only going to give the facility an extra few decades of life, and it will be of no benefit to revitalizing the downtown core.



If it ain't broke, don't fix it—and Rexall Place is far from broke



VICTOR
VARGAS

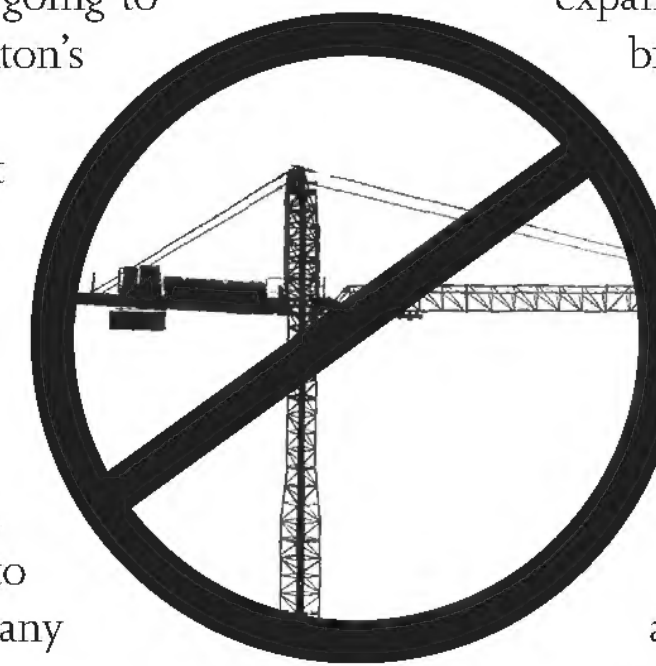
counterpoint

The City seems convinced that it needs a new arena downtown in order to breathe life into city centre and give the Oilers a new home—but as much as Mayor Stephen Mandel and other City councillors would like to believe it, a new arena isn't going to be the miracle cure to Edmonton's infrastructural ailments.

According to a recent *Edmonton Journal* article, Rexall Place currently puts on more than 45 Oiler games, 25 concerts and several trade-shows per year, but while such events are a definite draw, it still doesn't mean people are going to mingle around in downtown any more than they have to.

Whenever I go to a Rexall event, the first thing on my mind after isn't, "Let's see what this nice community on 118th Ave has in the way of restaurants," it's, "Let's get to the super-packed LRT as quick as we can and get the hell out of here."

Aside from giving a boost to Northlands' parking operations, Rexall Place has actually done very little to improve the community. Few, if any, of the downtown business are going to catch much of Rexall's business, but they'll definitely be on the receiving end of its woes. What's more, traffic congestion and a severe lack of parking are both problems that plague downtown now, and a new arena would only make things worse.



Imagine the pileups on Jasper Avenue at 5pm on a regular day, then think of how bad it will get if there's an Oilers game that night. And then dream of what it will be like when the Oilers are finally winning again!

As for parking, the current Rexall Place—located in the low-rent industrial hinterland that is northeast Edmonton—already doesn't have enough parking, and unless the City has some incredible infrastructural plan in place, the new one will only add to downtown's problems.

But the bigger question would be where to build this massive structure. Placing it near Grant MacEwan will only serve to cut off any future expansion when the college itself is bringing life to downtown. And sectioning off the low-income housing area east of 97th street would displace several families at a time when the city is already short on living space. I suppose there's always the river valley, but without an engineering miracle like the Shaw Convention Centre, any attempt to build it there would send costs skyrocketing.

In the end, the perfect place for a new arena is exactly where the old one is. Thanks to the existing LRT line, the City can continue to encourage people to opt for a cheaper and cleaner method of going to the games rather than driving. And for those people that do drive, Rexall is on a major road—the aptly named Wayne Gretzky Drive—which makes it easy to get there.

These benefits would be difficult, if not impossible, to recreate anywhere else within the city in a cost-effective manner. So while renovating Rexall would cost \$250 million—just \$50 million less than a new one would supposedly cost—the advantages of the current location cannot be ignored.

THE 2007 MAHER ARAR ESSAY COMPETITION & AWARD GUIDELINES

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This competition is open to all full-time, continuing undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alberta. All essays must be submitted electronically in a Word document to: maherararessay@ualberta.ca. The deadline for submission is **4:30 p.m. on Thursday, 5th April 2007**. For full details, visit our web site: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/polisci/index.cfm>

The winning essayist will receive a \$1,500 prize. The winner will be invited to attend the Political Science Annual Lecture to be delivered by Mr. Maher Arar at the Winspear Centre on 18 April, 2007, at which the Award will be personally conferred by Mr. Arar.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

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THE GATEWAY

Black market weapons at the root of global security threat



PATRICK ROSS

In the time that it takes you to read this article, someone, somewhere in the world will likely be killed with an illegal weapon. Whether in the hands of a child soldier in Africa, a gunman in the Middle East or a common thug somewhere in North America, illicit weapons are used to take the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every year.

The weapons black market has many different faces. Professional black-market arms merchants (also known as gunrunners), organized crime cartels and the clandestine espionage operations used by some of the world’s most powerful countries to supply weapons covertly to groups or states they are sympathetic to (often using gunrunners or organized criminals as proxy agents), combine to form an international web of illegal weapons sales.

The top threat posed by black market weapons is their sustenance of various conflicts in developing nations—particularly those in Latin America and Africa. The weapons black market is also the chief weapons supplier to various terrorist organizations. Cutting off the flow of weapons into these hands seems like the most logical solution to solving these particular problems.

While there have been numerous attempts to crack down on illegal weapons sales—including the UN’s Small Arms Review Conference, as well as efforts by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines—the illegal weapons trade continues to pose a serious threat to global human security. Year by year, it’s becoming clearer that the current approach isn’t working, and that it’s therefore time to try something more ambitious and direct.

As unsavory as the idea may seem, the problem could best be solved through the creation of an international law enforcement organization.

Currently, the international community relies on customs agencies, domestic police forces—often linked through co-operative organizations such as INTERPOL—and the aforementioned weapons embargos to control the flow of weapons to trouble-areas around the world.

But such soft-power approaches, based on diplomacy, coalition-building and international good will, are meaningless without sufficient hard power—that is, actual operational capabilities—to back them up. This is where current international policy toward black market weapons trading falls short.

As unsavory as the idea may seem, the problem could best be solved through the creation of an international law enforcement organization, designed as a more autonomous and active version of INTERPOL and modeled along of the lines of a special operations strike force. In other words, an international SWAT team with a specific mandate to pursue and arrest those who deal in illegal weapons, and deliver them for prosecution—either in their home countries or at the Hague.

Intriguingly, when tallying the costs related to the black market weapons trade, one can’t help but realize that failure to deal adequately with the illegal sale of weapons has a negative impact on the UN’s peacekeeping initiatives. Terrorists, freedom fighters and militant factions the world over have to attain their weapons somehow, and the black market serves as a convenient source for these arms.

It’s in this sense that the establishment of any such force actually characterizes a more proactive approach to UN peacekeeping, one built upon the foundation of simply enforcing international law.

Of course, the establishment of any new United Nations initiative, especially one this ambitious, raises the question of how it will be paid for. Perhaps the UN could take the advice of Satya Das, who suggested levying an international tax on defence spending in order to fit the bill. Mustering the necessary political will would, in the long run, prove more difficult. However, the lives saved would be well worth the effort.

Thank you for not voting



PAUL KNOECHEL

Every year about this time, the circus comes to campus. Colourful decorations litter the ground and cover the walls. People you’ve never heard of before explode into the limelight with troupes of supporters and performers. And from all corners of campus there are shouts for you to join the madness, get involved, fight apathy and so forth and so forth. Yes, Students’ Union elections are a magical time indeed.

Even more impressive than the massive hullabaloo of it all is the fact that so many people are able to ignore it completely. And for all of you out there that cared so little that you didn’t take the whole 20 or 30 minutes needed to become relatively informed and cast a ballot, this article is for you. I wish to extend my thanks to each and every one of you brave souls—keep up the good work.

I can hear the collective gasp right now of the one-fifth of the student body that actually did vote. This is followed by questions such as, “How can you support such apathy?” or, “Don’t you believe in democracy?” But I have good reasons for this: my ego and my opinionated nature.

If you were to get to know me, you’d realize that I have an enormous ego. In fact, in order to fall asleep every night,

I listen to the soothing sound of my recorded voice while admiring the life-sized poster of me posing shirtless with a half-dozen beautiful women.

Then, to get myself up in the morning, I tell myself how much darker the world would be if I were to stay in bed—that it’s no less than my civic, nay, *moral* responsibility to shed light into the lives of all those around me.

When I strut by the ladies, I can hear them swoon—and when I pass by the men, I taste their envy. The only problem with such an ego is that it needs constant stroking and reassuring. And while the life-sized poster helps, I find it difficult to carry around. So it’s a big treat for my ego to know that when I cast a ballot, I’m basically being told that my political opinion is worth that of *five people*. The bit of flirting done with the poll clerk after I vote is just the icing on the cake.

I’m also quite an opinionated individual, and while in principle I believe in the right to free speech, deep down I only agree with it so far as the opinions being expressed run parallel to my own. It’s just nice to know that when voicing a political opinion in SU elections, I don’t have to worry about “alternate viewpoints” because the misguided people that carry them generally don’t vote.

Either way, the circus is over this year. I have to find new ways of feeding the ego and making my opinions matter more than others’. So I’ll simply reiterate my thanks to all those who, for whatever reason, have no problem with me expressing their views and speaking on their behalf—I look forward to doing it all over again next year.

THE BURLAP SACK

Global warming being the thorny issue that it is, perhaps we shouldn’t be all that surprised that high-profile activists like Al Gore and David Suzuki are going to take some heat about their respective campaigns—especially when it comes to those who have the most to lose from a change in lifestyle.

But as the evidence—and, more importantly, public support—for action on climate change increases, it seems that the coherence of the arguments against it decreases proportionally. Now that global warming is a fact, we no longer hear, “Come on, it’s just earth’s natural cycle”—it’s, “David Suzuki drives a big, gas-guzzling bus accross the country to get his message out,” or “Al Gore’s house consumes a huge amount of electricity” or “the producer of *An Inconvenient Truth* flies in a private jet.”

While the actual degree of hypocrisy found here could easily be disputed, the point is, these character attacks don’t take away from the issue at hand. Just because Al Gore has a big house doesn’t mean that climate change *isn’t* happening—so don’t just scoff about it and leave it at that.

As these types of fallacies are somehow making front pages across the country, a sack-beating is definitely in order—both for those who suggest them and those who report them as well.

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